



Conventional and Complete
7-year Bible Lesson Program
for
Children, Youth and Family
Sunday School
(Pre-school through Adult)

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LESSONS SCHEDULES

Year 1	16
(Fall) Genesis: Who is God? A Study on Attributes of God	
(Winter) John: Jesus, the Son of God	
(Spring-summer) Acts: Acts of the Holy Spirit 1-2, Corinthians: The Church - Servants of Christ	
Year 2	27
(Fall) Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy: Because of God's Faithfulness	
(Winter) Mark: What Jesus Does for Those Who Believe	
(Spring-Summer) Acts, Romans, Galatians: Building the Church through the Gospel	
Year 3	43
(Fall) Joshua, Judges Ruth: God's Grace and Glory	
(Winter) Luke: Jesus' Humanity and Yet His Deity	
(Spring-Summer) Acts, Ephesians, Colosians, and Thessalonians: Believers are Sons and Daughters of God	

Year 4 (Spring and Summer Not yet Available)	64
(Fall) 1, 2 Samuel, 1Chronicles, Psalms: David the Picture of a Perfect and Righteous King	
(Winter) Matthew: God’s Eternal Righteous King	
(Spring-Summer) Acts, 1, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon: Believers are...	
Year 5 (Not Yet Available)	33
(Fall) Kings and Prophets:	
(Winter) Luke: Witness to the Gentiles	
(Spring-Summer) 1, 2 Peter, Jude, James, and Proverbs: Combating the Lies of this World	
Year 6 (Not Yet Available)	37
(Fall) Kings & prophets:	
(Winter) Matthew:	
(Spring-Summer) Hebrews: Glory of Jesus	
Year 7 (Not Yet Available)	43
(Fall) Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Zechariah, Malichi, Hagai: Old Prophet sees the future	
(Winter) John:	
(Spring-Summer) 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation: Jesus Comes Again	

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Primary Goals

The primary goals of this program is to help teachers teach the Bible so that the child who attends will have been taught the full counsel of scripture twice over fourteen years from preschool through highschool. The entire biblical storyline is learned in context, chapter-by-chapter. Each week, the lesson and memory verse surround a key biblical principle drawn from the passage.

Program Distinctives

Teachers teach from Bible, not a curriculum. This program is founded on the belief that God, through the power of His Spirit and Word, has given devoted adults the ability to teach about God straight from the Bible. Therefore, it is primarily a simple learning schedule that divides the Bible into 364 sections; fifty two weeks for seven years. This schedule provides the main idea (principle) and the Gospel principle from the passage to help the teacher prepare lessons.

Truths of God taught textually (Biblical Theology). This program is founded on the principle that God intentionally revealed Himself in story and book form to maximize our understanding of Him. Therefore, all theological principles of scripture are taught primarily through telling the stories of scripture. Each trimester follows the Old Testament (fall), Gospel (spring) or New Testament story or book (summer).

The entire story of God is taught. This program is founded on the principle that all of scripture is edifying and necessary. Therefore, over the course of seven years, every book in scripture is taught as the Bible itself teaches; from within the context of the story. If we are blessed to have a child from pre-school through high school, he or she will be exposed the entire Bible story twice, as they are lead by the teacher who in turn is following the books and stories of scripture.

The entire council of God is taught. This program is founded on the principle that some ideas are considered primary and must be repeated more often. As all of scripture is covered, so all the systematic truths of God are taught. By following the story of the Bible, the truths that God has repeated many times are the ones we repeat many times. The truths given less weight are naturally not covered as often. This allows the Word itself to determine priority of doctrine.

Truths are applied to our kids today. This program is founded on the principle that scripture can be applied to specifically individuals in specific places at specific times. Therefore, each lesson is applied by the teacher to the specific kids in their specific class according to what is occurring today in the lives of the students in our church and community. General applications are easily derived from the main principles.

All ages learn from the same passages each week. This program is founded on the principle that families should remain the center of a child's learning, not the Sunday school class. Therefore this program, because it follows a single story line for all grades, makes it easy for parents to bring their family together to supplement their child's learning. Siblings can easily share and discuss something unique from their individual classes.

A single lesson schedule creates incredible flexibility. Substitutes can fill in for numerous grade levels and classes can join together in infinite combinations. Large-group event such as big-group worship and classes are easy when all ages follow the same lesson schedule.

Learning schedule aligns with common school-year and Christian calendar. Each August begins a story line from the Old Testament. As Christmas approaches, a new semester begins with the start of a Gospel book beginning when Jesus was born and continues until His Crucifixion at Easter. Each spring after Easter, the Bible story continues following an Apostle into the teachings of the New Testament. This yearly pattern allows the momentum and attention of Christmas, Easter and the typical school year to bolster the Bible lessons, and not detract from them.

Freedom to follow God's leading. Because this program is not a formal curriculum, the teacher has much more freedom to hear God speak through His Word to teach his or her students. This is the most exciting part for any Bible teacher, to have God leading them personally to teach.

Program Necessities

Teachers must be selected and mentored to be good Bible teachers. This program requires teachers to be passionate about teaching the Word of God, as it will require more preparation time, a higher level of teaching skill and spiritual work. This program requires that leadership select those who are spiritually devoted to teach the Bible and are properly mentored and encouraged. The servant who loves the Word as much as they love the kids is the target teacher for this program.

Teachers must emphasize the principle, not the story. Some weeks there are great stories that can overshadow the truth about God. Other weeks, large sections of scripture are covered that contain many truths of God. Either scenario can result in the principle truth being minimized or lost all together.

Teachers must determine current application. Because this is not a pre-written curriculum for teachers to follow, the individual teacher must seek God's counsel to specifically apply the principles being covered that week. This requires more effort, preparation, and dependence on God. It allows, even requires the teacher to custom fit the truths of God to what is happening in the lives of the students in a specific time and place in history.

Teachers must be skilled at finding Christ and the Gospel in Scripture. The teacher must point every lesson, whether Old or New Testament must be pointed back to Jesus. It is very easy for a student to learn a story from the Bible and not see the connection to God's greater plan of salvation and the need for Christ's redemption. Every lesson offers an opportunity to point to our need for Jesus, and this must be done intentionally. Gospel principles are provided to help.

Teachers need training and feedback. Because each lesson relies more on the teacher, it is important to conduct initial training, continuing education, as well as ongoing feedback and encouragement. A lesson feedback form is provided to help the ministry leader meet the goals of this program.

Weekly Objectives

A single truth about God is drawn from the Bible and emphasized. Over the course of study, every systematic truth of the Bible will be drawn from the story of scripture. Whether several chapters of a Book are covered, or just a few verses, the goal is for the kids to come away remembering a single truth about God each week.

A single scripture verse is memorized. Each week a memory verse is offered that reinforces the principle truth of the story for the week.

Every lesson returns to our need for Christ and the Gospel. Every story in scripture and every principle truth will be pointed back to our need for Jesus and the Good News of the cross. Some lessons naturally offer opportunity for the fully Gospel presentation, others lend only to a portion. Regardless, our children are never left without adding to their understanding God's beautiful expectations, our sinful failings, and Christ's answer on the cross.

Systematic Theological Cross-cut (First Three years Only)

General Doctrines	Topics by Semester	The Spread of the Gospel	Jesus' Miracles (Mark)	God's Faithfulness	Walking in Jesus	Jesus Son of God	Attributes of God (Genesis)	The Church	Matthew and Acts 1	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel	Luke	Total
	Specific Bible Doctrines											
God's Word	Authority in Eternity											0
	Clarity, Necessity, Sufficiency	16		8	3,9		12	3				7
God (Theology)	Incommunicable Attributes			1,2,10, 18,21			4,6,8, 10,15 ,17		2			13
	Communicable Attributes		13	17		4,6	11	2,8,9	2			9
	Trinity					4,8			5,10			4
	Creation						1					1
	Providence	2,9		4,6,7	5,7,8		14,16		4			11
	Prayer				13		12					2
	Angels/Satan/demons	11										1
Man (Anthropology)	Creation of Man						2					1
	Male and Female				6		2					2
	Sin	3		13,14, 15,16			3,9					7
	Covenants			1,5,8,1 1,18			5,7,1 0					8
Christ and Holy Spirit	Person of Christ		1	11,20		1,2, 3,7, 10,1 2,13						10
	Attonement	4	2,4,6, 13	5,17,2 0		13	18		7			11
	Resurrection/Ascension	1	13			11,1 4			8,9			6
	Offices of Christ			11		11			5			3
	Work of the Holy Spirit	1,9,1 6	3,12	9	1				10,11 ,12,1 3,14, 15,16			15
	Common Grace											0
	Election	13				5,9						3
	Gospel Call	8		19		13	11		6			5

Appropriation of Salvation	Regeneration	16	7,8,9,10,11,12	9,12	1,9,11	5,9						14
	Conversion (faith/repentance)	5	*	19	4	4			3			5
	Justification/adoption	14	3,13	17								4
	Sanctification		10	12	2,11,12							5
	Perseverance of the saints		5	17,16,22		4		10				6
	Death			22								1
The Church (Ecclesiology)	Nature of the church	1,2,6,7,10,13		3	10	15	13	1,4,5,8,9	9			16
	Baptism	15,17,18										3
	Lord's Supper											0
	Gifts of the Holy Spirit						7					1
The Future (Eschatology)	Return of Christ				14							1
	The Millennium											0
	Final Judgement and Eternal Punishment	3					9					2
	New Heavens and New Earth											0

Teaching Techniques

The following goals provide the Sunday school minister/director some guidance for initial teacher training, continuation training, as well as feedback from sitting in on a classroom. These goals will help ensure that the content of each lesson is biblical, accurate, applied, and the delivered to maximize transformation.

Bible teaching should always be:

Applicable. There should be a clear, desired change of behavior, expectation or way of thinking communicated in the lesson. Use care to not speak as though all the kids are saved. Doing so builds a false confidence that they are converted when in fact many probably are not.

Gospel Centered. The message should communicate God's impossible expectations (the Law) as well as God's graceful remedy (the Gospel). His power and grace are what frees us to understand and follow His expectations.

Doxological. Whenever possible, we should highlight Gods greatness; His love, grace, mercy, compassion, righteousness, justice, wisdom, holiness, etc.

Exegetical. The teaching must accurately illuminate the message of the passage, in its historical and literary context. The passage should never be "used" to make the point of the teacher.

Principle. The lesson and all the activities should reinforce the main doctrine or principle of the passage or story.

Pure. Free from contamination by the teacher; his personal frustrations, passions, issues or "new" ideas. Void of human efforts to cajole or persuade, or otherwise elicit a response, instead allowing the Holy Spirit to convict (i.e. Sensationalism and manipulation)

Teaching should always be (Techniques that help the truth be heard and understood)

Compassionate: The lesson should be communicated carefully and compassionately, reflecting the great love, patience and grace Jesus has for these children.

Convicting: The teacher should communicate with enthusiasm, as a prophet speaking for God to save people from hell and to life.

Clear. There should be a clear main point. Concrete *illustrations* used to communicate complex or abstract truths; especially good are illustrations from scripture narratives, using simple terms that are easily grasp. Activities should all point to the principle.

Organized. *Ordered* to carefully transport the students from where they are, through all the activities of the day to a singular biblical conclusion that is easily understood, remembered and applied. The lesson and activities are *unified* on the principle. Activities are *balanced*; one is not given considerable more weight than the others or the lesson. All activities work together like a story, with highs and lows; the day is not all a loud party, nor is it all quiet and cerebral. An *introduction* should point toward the principle, careful *transitions* between activities to reinforce, and a *conclusion or summary* that ties everything together.

Old Testament and Gospel Bible Lesson and Activity Planning Worksheet

Overall Goal: Students understand and believe the doctrinal principle (truth about God) behind the Bible story or lesson.

Scripture(s):

Memory Verse:

Doctrine Principle:

Personal Study and Spiritual Preparation

1. **Pray**, “God, show me what You want me to know and teach my kids this week.”

2. **Read** the passage(s) several times in complete submission to God.
 - What is the context of the passages around it? Who was the historical audience?
 - What did this mean to them? What was the scene? What was God teaching *them*?

 - Read the additional passages provided or other corresponding Bible passages/stories/truths
What comes to mind?

3. **Pray** and ask God how this lesson (story and principle) applies.
 - What does it mean to you personally today? How does truly understanding, believing and living this out increase *your* faith, hope and love?

Prepare to Teach the Bible-lesson

1. Pray, go back and reread the Scriptures used for the lesson, focusing on the principle.

2. Plan and write down the actual words you would use to teach this lesson (Outlining is fine for older classes).
 - a. Begin with an opening sentence that gets their attention, ties in from last week and/or piques interest in today’s story.

 - b. Carefully think through how to center the lesson on the principle, even saying it word for word in your lesson – even more than once – to emphasize.

- c. Plan how to **end the story**. Beware of allowing the Bible teaching to just run into application.
- d. End the story, letting God's words be distinct, and then begin the application. One way to differentiate is to say "Now let's talk about what this part of God's Word means to you."

Preparing to Teach the Application

1. How could truly **understanding this passage and principle change** how your kids view life, view God or view themselves? How can I help my kids **apply these truths** in a way that truly changes how they live and view life?
2. Plan how you want to **present your application**. Do you want to have a discussion during snack time, a question and answer session, role playing, a game
3. **What questions can I ask** them to help them "own" these truths for themselves?

Teaching the Memory Verse

1. The verse can be used to teach application through discussion and activities, but doesn't necessarily have to be.
2. Be sure to thoroughly explain **the verse and define any unfamiliar or difficult words**. Plan some kind of activity to involve the kids – memory games, etc.
3. Does your class prepare a **memory card collection** to take home, put by their bed, in their backpack or where ever they may be most likely to refer back to them? Is there a classroom set to review periodically and when time filler is needed? If so, prepare for those.

Teaching the Timeline

1. This can be used as a teaching activity during the day, placing today's lesson on the line. This could be quick or extended as desired, the kids can even use Scripture clues to place the lesson on the line themselves.

Games and Other Activities

1. Having fun, enjoying each other is very important. Try to play at least one game every Sunday. If it can be coordinated to reinforce a Biblical truth from the lesson, or a past one, all the better.

Activity Planning Worksheet

If it is helpful, use the attached **Lesson and Activity Planning Worksheet** to help plan and coordinate all your activities for the morning.

Lesson and Activity Planning Worksheet

8:45-9:00
9:00- 9:15
9:15 – 9:30
9:30 – 9:45
9:45 – 10:00
10:00 – 10:15

Epistles Bible Lesson and Activity Planning Worksheet

Overall Goal: Students understand and believe the doctrinal principle (truth about God) behind the Bible story or lesson.

Scripture(s):

Memory Verse:

Doctrine Principle:

STEP 1: Personal Study and Spiritual Preparation

4. **Pray**, “God, show me what You want me to learn and teach my kids this week.”
5. **Read** the principle and passage(s) several times in complete submission to God.
 - What is the context of the passages around it? Who was the historical audience?
 - What did this mean to them? What was the scene? What was God teaching *them*?
 - Read the additional passages provided or other corresponding Bible passages/stories/truths What comes to mind?
6. **Pray** and ask God how this lesson and principle applies.
 - How does truly understanding, believing and living this out increase your faith, hope and love? What must I change to fit this application? What would my life look like?

STEP 2: Prepare to Teach the Bible-lesson

3. Pray, go back and reread the Scriptures used for the lesson.
4. Consider the best way to **communicate the principle**
 - a. What portions of the selected text should you read to your kids?
 - b. What’s the context? (was Paul correcting bad behavior, rewarding good behavior, etc.)
 - c. Will reading from an easier-to-understand Bible translation help?
 - i. NIV, New Living Translation, The Message
5. Ask God for a **vivid illustration or story** that paints a picture of the principle.
 - a. Good sources of illustrations (Real members of the Church; NT believers through world-wide present day believers)
 - b. Good illustrations should always include:
 - i. Spirit-empowered ability or gifting (not just nice “like everyone else”)
 - ii. Memorable event or story line
 - iii. Relatable by your audience (age, maturity, etc.)
 - c. Resources for stories/illustrations
 - i. <http://www.christianhistorytimeline.com/index.php>
 - ii. Church Library: biographies and DVDs
 - iii. FSS teachers Idea Network

1. Saturday morning brainstorm
2. Facebook Networking
6. Plan and write down the actual words you would use to teach this lesson (Outlining is fine for older classes).
 - a. Begin with an opening sentence that gets their attention, ties in from last week and/or piques interest in today's story.
 - b. Carefully think through how to center the lesson/illustrations on the principle, even saying it word for word in your lesson – even more than once – to emphasize.
 - c. Plan how to **end the story**. Beware of allowing the Bible teaching to just run into application.
 - d. End the story, letting God's words be distinct, and then begin the application. One way to differentiate is to say "Now let's talk about what this part of God's Word means to you."

STEP 3: Preparing to Teach the Application

1. The focus this summer's application is on serving others
 - Explain how the illustration/story is an example of the principle
 - Explain other possible ways the principle might be applied today.
 - Discuss examples of how the principle has been demonstrated in our church?
 - Discuss specific, age appropriate ways your kids can demonstrate the principle.
2. Plan how you want to **present your application**. Do you want to have a discussion during snack time, a question and answer session, role playing, a game

STEP 4a: Teaching the Memory Verse

1. The verse can be used to teach application through discussion and activities, but doesn't necessarily have to be.
2. Be sure to thoroughly explain **the verse and define any unfamiliar or difficult words**. Plan some kind of activity to involve the kids – memory games, etc.
3. Your class can prepare a **memory card collection** to take home, put by their bed, in their backpack or where ever they may be most likely to refer back to them? Is there a classroom set to review periodically and when time filler is needed? If so, prepare for those.

STEP 4b: Teaching the Timeline

1. This can be used as a teaching activity during the day, placing today's lesson on the line. This could be quick or extended as desired, the kids can even use Scripture clues to place the lesson on the line themselves.

Summer Service Project, Games and Other Activities

1. Engage in a continuing dialog with the kids about what the summer service project could be, and how your class can incorporate today's principle.
2. Having fun, enjoying each other is very important. Try to play at least one game every Sunday. If it can be coordinated to reinforce a Biblical truth from the lesson, or a past one, all the better.

Lesson and Activity Planning Worksheet

8:45-9:00
9:00- 9:15
9:15 – 9:30
9:30 – 9:45

Bible Story Building Worksheet

Introductory Sentence:

Introductory Sentence:

Main Body:

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely blank except for the lines themselves.

Ending:

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 1, Fall

Book(s): Genesis

Theme: Who is God? A Study on Attributes of God

Fall Week 1

Topic: Creator- Creation

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 104

Verse: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)*

Principle: God created everything.

Gospel Application: God created all things to be good, including mankind.

Fall Week 2

Topic: Father – Creation of Adam and Eve

Scripture: Genesis 1:27-31, 2:4-25, Psalm 8

Verse: *"So God created man in his own image." (Genesis 1:27a)*

Principle: God created you and desires to have a relationship with you.

Gospel Application: God created man to bear His image (demonstrate His goodness) and live sinless lives together and with God.

Fall Week 3

Topic: Holy – The Fall

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-24, Psalm 30

Verse: *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:19)*

Principle: Disobedience of God brings death, obedience to God brings life.

Gospel Application: Adam and Eve's consequences for sin (separation and death) and the sin of their descendants will be paid by "the seed of the woman" Jesus Christ so some those who believe can be saved.

Fall Week 4

Topic: Omniscient – Cain and Abel

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16, Psalm 139

Verse: *"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 17:10)*

Principle: God knows everything about you.

Gospel Application: Because Jesus' death on the cross pays for the sin of those who believe in Him, they do not need to fear God knowing about sin.

Fall Week 5

Topic: Savior - Noah

Scripture: Genesis 5:32-9:17, 9:28, Psalm 86

Verse: *"Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you." (Psalm 86:2)*

Principle: God saves those who love and obey Him.

Gospel Application: Jesus saves those who believe from the penalty of sin like Noah's ark saved those who believed God.

Fall Week 6

Topic: Omnipotent – Tower of Babel

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 33

Verse: *"Many are the plans in a man's heart but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21)*

Principle: What God plans will happen and you can be a part of those plans.

Gospel Application: Jesus gives believers power to obey God and follow His plans.

Fall Week 7

Topic: Sovereign - Abram's Call and God's Covenant

Scripture: Genesis 11:27-15:21, Psalm 105:1-11

Verse: *"He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded for a thousand generations." (Psalm 105:8)*

Principle: God made a covenant to bless all people for all time.

Gospel Application: Jesus who saves sinners will be the blessing for all people God is promising Abraham.

NOTE: Be sure to define covenant clearly for the kids.

Fall Week 8

Topic: Omnipresent - Hagar and Ishmael

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16, 21:8-20, Psalm 121

Verse: *"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:2)*

Principle: God always sees you and is always with you.

Gospel Application: Jesus will save everyone who believes and trusts in Him.

Fall Week 9

Topic: Just - Sodom and Gomorrah

Scripture: Genesis 18:16-19:29, Psalm 1

Verse: *"For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish." (Psalm 1:6)*

Principle: God destroys those who refuse to live His way.

Gospel Application: Jesus' death on the cross pays for the disobedience of believers.

Fall Week 10

Topic: Faithful - The Birth of Isaac

Scripture: 17:1-27, 18:1-15, 21:1-7, Psalm 117

Verse: "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4)

Principle: God keeps His promises.

Gospel Application: God promised a Savior who would be His only Son.

Fall Week 11

Topic: Loving - The Testing of Abraham

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-19, Isaiah 53

Verse: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Principle: God provides the way for you to be saved.

Gospel Application: God had the death of His only Son Jesus pay for the sins of believers, so they can live and learn how to live as God desires and not be separated from Him anymore.

Note: This is a very good opportunity to present the whole gospel message.

Fall Week 12

Topic: Shepherd - A Wife for Isaac

Scripture: Genesis 24:1-67, Psalm 119:97-105

Verse: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

Principle: God can be trusted to guide you when you pray and listen to His word.

Gospel Application: Because of Jesus, God hears and answers the prayers of believers.

Fall Week 13

Topic: Patient - Jacob and Esau

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-40, Isaiah 41:8-10, Psalm 65

Verse: *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."* (John 15:16)

Principle: God chooses imperfect people to be His and to accomplish His plan.

Gospel Application: Jesus' death on the cross allows sinful people to serve and be with God.

Fall Week 14

Topic: Gracious - Jacob's Family Life

Scripture: Genesis 27:41-28:5, 29:1-30:43, Psalm 112

Verse: *"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."* (Psalm 67:1-2)

Principle: God Can Work Through People Who Do Not Walk With Him.

Gospel Application: Many people still do not know Jesus and don't walk with Him. They need to know about Jesus so they can walk with God.

Fall Week 15

Topic: Trustworthy - Jacob Wrestles With God

Scripture: Genesis 31:1-33:20, Psalm 91

Verse: *"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"*
(Psalm 91:2)

Principle: God wants you to depend on Him, not yourself and others.

Gospel Application: Jesus allows us to be with God again and receive all the benefits of being with Him.

Fall Week 16

Topic: Perfect - Joseph's Trials

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-36, 39:1-23, Psalm 64

Verse: *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* (James 1:2-4)

Principle: God has a special plan for your life and perfectly uses everything in your life to prepare you to do His work.

Gospel Application: Without Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we can do no good work at all.

Note: **Shorten verse for the younger kids, but please challenge third grade and up to learn the entire thing!**

Fall Week 17

Topic: Wise - Joseph Becomes a Leader

Scripture: Genesis 39:20b -41:57, Psalm 111

Verse: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* (Psalm 111:10a)

Principle: God is the source of all wisdom.

Gospel Application: Jesus' sacrifice and being with God allows believers to hear His voice and understand His wisdom.

Fall Week 18

Topic: Redeemer – God Saves His Remnant

Scripture: Genesis 42:1-47:31, 49:29-50:21, Psalm 130

Verse: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."* (Genesis 50:20)

Principle: God redeems and only God can save you.

Gospel Application: Jesus' death on the cross is the only substitute that keeps believers from being separated from God.

Note: **LOTS OF READING –START EARLY! Please plan on using this good opportunity to share the gospel.**

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 1, Winter

Book(s): Matthew

Theme: God sent His Son to save those who trust in Him and the Holy Spirit to help them.

Winter Week 1

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 2

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 3

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 4

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 5

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 6

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 7

Topic: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 91. *Optional - Luke 15:8-10; 11-32.

Verse: *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)*

Principle: God desires to find the lost.

Winter Week 8

Topic: Feeding of the Five Thousand

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-13

Verse: *They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. (Matthew 14:20)*

Principle: God desires to meet our physical needs abundantly.

Winter Week 9

Topic: Jesus Walks On Water

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-38, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

Verse: *Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the Lord of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. (Isaiah 50:10)*

Principle: God desires that we trust Him and not doubt.

Winter Week 10

Topic: Jesus Heals the Boy With a Demon

Scripture: Matthew 17:14-21

Verse: *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)*

Principle: God desires to build our faith.

Winter Week 11

Topic: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-38, John 12:12-36

Verse: *"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"* (John 12:27-28)

Principle: God desires to glorify His name.

Note: It may be necessary to clarify what "glorifying His name" is. God glorifying His name is expressing His glory, splendor, majesty and beauty in all that He is and all that He does.

Winter Week 12

Topic: The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13, John 3:16-21. *Optional – Matthew 22:1-14

Verse: *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him* (John 3:17)

Principle: God desires that we be prepared to spend eternity with Him.

Note: This is an excellent opportunity to share the gospel. Being prepared to be with God for eternity involves accepting Jesus as one's Lord and Savior before one dies or Jesus returns – whichever occurs first.

Winter Week 13 (Palm Sunday)

Topic: Jesus' Crucifixion and Death

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-54, Mark 15:22-39, Luke 23:26-47, John 19:17-37, Psalm 22.

Verse: *When He had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.* (John 19:30)

Principle: God requires an innocent sacrifice to allow us to be in His presence.

Winter Week 14 (Easter Sunday)

Topic: Jesus' Resurrection

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, 1Corinthians 15:35-57.

Verse: *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.* (Matthew 28:6a)

Principle: Jesus' resurrection demonstrates God's power over death.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 1, Spring/Summer

Book(s): Acts, 1 and 2 Corinthians

Theme: God sent the Holy Spirit to and the Church – Servants of Christ (with historical example from church history)

Gospel Application: Only believers who trust in Jesus can be with God in His family called the church and receive all the blessing promised to His children.

Spring Week 1 (After Easter)

Topic: Jesus' Instructions and Ascension

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11.

Verse: *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:18-20)

Principle: God desires that the whole world hear the gospel through His followers.

Notes: For the very little ones, consider shortening verse to Matthew 28:19a.

Spring Week 2

Topic: The Holy Spirit Comes

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13, John 14:15-18, Ephesians 1:13-14

Verse: *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.* (John 14:26)

Principle: God provided the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Jesus.

Spring Week 3

Topic: The Holy Spirit Empowers Peter

Scripture: Acts 2:14-41.

Verse: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit empowers His disciples (believers) to tell others about Jesus.

Notes: It is a good idea to review last week's principle and verse for those who were absent the week before.

Spring Week 4

Topic: Peter and John Heal and Speak Boldly

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10, Acts 4:1-31.

Verse: *"For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:20)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit empowers His disciples to speak and act with boldness.

Notes: While not the main focus of this lesson, Peter's speech before the Sanhedrin provides an excellent opportunity to talk about the gospel. See particularly Acts 4:12.

Spring Week 5

Topic: The Apostles Persecuted

Scripture: Acts 5:12-42.

Verse: *Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"* (Acts 5:29)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit empowers His disciples to obey Him and rejoice in persecution.

Spring Week 6

Topic: Stephen – The First Martyr

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7:60

Verse: *Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* (Romans 12:1-2)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit transforms us to be like Jesus and empowers us to courageously give our whole lives to share Jesus with others.

Spring Week 7

Topic: Philip Proclaims Christ to an Ethiopian

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40 (Background Acts 6:3-5 and 8:4-13)

Verse: *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own, he will tell you what is yet to come.* (John 16:13)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit empowers His disciples to explain the truth of His Word.

Spring Week 8

Topic: Saul/Paul Becomes a Believer

Scripture: Acts 9:1-22

Verse: *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (Galatians 2:20)

Principle: God's Holy Spirit can change a great sinner into a great witness for Himself.

Spring/Summer Week 1

Topic: United

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, 3:1-9, 12:12-27

Verse: *Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.* (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Principle: The Church is made up of all who believe in Christ.

Example: Pirmineus – Apostles Creed 753 AD, Corrie Ten Boom 1944

Spring/Summer Week 2

Topic: Wise

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16, 3:18-23

Verse: *[Believers] have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 2:16b)

Principle: Servants of Christ have wisdom from God which is unlike the wisdom of the world.

Example: Thomas Aquinas 1225, Isaac Newton 1642, CS Lewis 1907

Summer Week 3

Topic: Grounded

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Verse: *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Principle: Servants of Christ build their lives on Jesus.

Example: John Wycliffe 1384, William Tyndale 1525

Summer Week 4

Topic: Pure

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8:8, 2 Corinthians 7:1

Verse: *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Principle: Servants of Christ purify themselves by obeying God because they love Him.

Example: George Muller 1803 (sometimes his last name is spelled Mueller), George Fox 1643

Summer Week 5

Topic: Free

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:9-13, 9:19-23, 10:23-11:1

Verse: *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Principle: Servants of Christ are free to think of others before themselves in the choices they make.

Example: Patrick Henry, 1775, William Wilburforce 1807, Harriet Beecher Stowe 1811

Summer Week 6

Topic: Humble

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:1-12, 4:6-13

Verse: *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*
(1 Corinthians 9:22b)

Principle: Servants of Christ are humble.

Example: Bathilde 680 AD, Louis Braille 1809

Summer Week 7

Topic: Gifted

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31 [1 Corinthians 14 should be read during personal study time for teacher's information and clarification. May be used for teaching if teacher feels led to do so]

Verse: *All these [gifts] are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.* (1 Corinthians 12:11)

Principle: Servants of Christ have special gifts to build the body of Christ.

Example: George Frederic Handel 1741, Michelangelo 1509

Summer Week 8

Topic: Loving

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

Verse: *And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.* (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Principle: Servants of Christ love others unconditionally.

Example: Richard Wurmbrandt 1948, Jim Elliot 1956 (Missionaries Die in Ecuador Jungle)

Summer Week 9

Topic: Generous

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, 2 Corinthians 8-9

Verse: *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Principle: Servants of Christ give generously to others.

Example: Amy Carmichael 1901, William Borden 1912

Summer Week 10

Topic: Hopeful

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 3:12-5:5

Verse: *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4:28)

Principle: Servants of Christ put their hope in the Lord Jesus Christ because they will spend eternity with Him.

Example: Polycarp 155 AD, Ann Judson

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 2, Fall/Winter

Book(s): Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Theme: Because of His Faithfulness. . .

Fall Week 1

Topic: INTRO

Scripture: Genesis and Exodus 1:1-7

Verse: *"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands." Deuteronomy 7:9*

Principle: God makes promises that He is faithful to fulfill.

Gospel Application: God will keep His promised to save Israel just like He promised to save us from sin with Jesus.

Fall Week 2

Topic: Oppression of Israel

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:25

Verse: *"He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." Psalm 98:3*

Principle: God remembers His people even in hard times.

Gospel Application: God hears and remembers everyone who wants to be saved from their sin just like heard when Israel wanted to be saved from Egypt.

Fall Week 3

Topic: Moses Called, Instructed, and Sent

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4:20

Verse: *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10*

Principle: God includes us in His plans for the salvation of the world.

Gospel Application: Jesus sent His Son to save us from sin just like He sent Moses to save Israel from captivity.

Fall Week 4

Topic: The Plagues

Scripture: Exodus 6:2-12; 6:28-10:29

Verse: *"You performed miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, and have continued them to this day, both in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still Yours." Jeremiah 32:20*

Principle: God works in miraculous, unusual ways to bring about His sovereign will.

Gospel Application: God does a miracle in our hearts when He saves us from our sin.

Fall Week 5

Topic: The Passover

Scripture: Exodus 11:1-12:42, Numbers 9:1-14; 1Peter 1:18-21

Verse: *"Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7b*

Principle: God provides the way to salvation and gave the Israelites a picture of Jesus.

Gospel Application: God will save sinners from death by using a perfect human sacrifice just like he used a perfect lamb sacrifice to save Israel from death.

NOTE: You may want to get together with another class and do a Passover meal with the children. You could wear costumes, etc. and make it very real to the kids.

Fall Week 6

Topic: The Red Sea Crossing, Cloud and Pillar

Scripture: Exodus 13:17-14:31

Verse: *"In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling." Exodus 15:13*

Principle: God leads and protects His people.

Gospel Application: Believers who trust in Jesus will follow Him into the Kingdom of God just like Israel believed and followed Moses to the Promised Land.

Fall Week 7

Topic: God's provision of water and manna

Scripture: Exodus 15:22-17:7

Verse: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:26*

Principle: God has promised to provide for our daily needs of food, shelter and clothing.

Gospel Application: When we trust Jesus, He provides for our spiritual needs like understanding the Bible and being able to love each other better.

Fall Week 8

Topic: God gives the Law at Mt. Sinai

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-20:26; 23:20-24:18

Verse: *"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD." Psalm 119:1*

Principle: God gives us commandments to live by, because His way is the best way to live.

Gospel Application: Believers who trust in Jesus have power from the Holy Spirit to obey God's commandments.

NOTE: Teachers, in your preparation time, you might want to read Psalm 119 and get a sense of how it is to obey God's Word. This is WELL worth the time!

Fall Week 9

Topic: The Golden Calf

Scripture: Exodus 31:18-33:6

Verse: *"Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."* Galatians 5:16

Principle: God demands obedience but gives us the ability to obey.

Gospel Application: Believers who trust in Jesus have power from the Holy Spirit to obey God's commandments.

Fall Week 10

Topic: God shows Moses His glory.

Scripture: Exodus 33:7-34:35

Verse: *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."* Habakkuk 2:14

Principle: God reveals Himself to those who seek Him for His glory.

Gospel Application: Believers who trust in Jesus are given the ability to understand who God really is and know how good and beautiful He is.

Fall Week 11

Topic: The priesthood

Scripture: Exodus 28:1-30:38; Leviticus 8:1-9:24

Verse: *"Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."* Hebrews 9:15

Principle: In the past, God used priests to mediate between His people and Himself but now, Jesus is our one true priest.

Gospel Application: There is nobody else besides Jesus who can give us access to God. He alone bore the death penalty for our sin and can allow us to be with God again.

Fall Week 12

Topic: The tabernacle

Scripture: Exodus 25:1-27:21; 31:1-31:17; 35-40

Verse: *"In Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."* Ephesians 2:22

Principle: God dwells in the hearts of those who love and believe in Him.

Gospel Application: There is nobody else besides Jesus who can give us access to God so He can live with us in our heart.

NOTE: Join with others to create a tabernacle, perhaps even constructing or talking about the different parts, or showing pictures or a model to make this real for the kids.

Fall Week 13

Topic: The journey to the Promised Land begins

Scripture: Numbers 10:11-11:35

Verse: *"Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." Hebrews 12:28*

Principle: God wants His people to be grateful for what He provides.

Gospel Application: God's greatest gift for mankind is His Son who takes away the sins of believers.

Fall Week 14

Topic: Spying out the Land

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-14:45

Verse: *"I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day." 2 Timothy 1:12b*

Principle: God wants His people to believe what He says.

Gospel Application: Only because of Jesus can we know what God says, believe it is true, and obey Him.

Fall Week 15

Topic: Korah's Rebellion

Scripture: Numbers 16:1-17:13

Verse: *"He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray." Proverbs 10:17*

Principle: God wants His people to trust that His ways are best.

Gospel Application: Only because of Jesus can we know God and trust Him.

Fall Week 16

Topic: Moses' Disobedience

Scripture: Numbers 20:8-13

Verse: *"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless." Psalm 84:11*

Principle: Even people who love God disobey and face consequences of their disobedience.

Gospel Application: Because of Jesus dies for everything we will ever do wrong, believers can still be with God and enjoy Him forever.

Fall Week 17

Topic: The Bronze Serpent

Scripture: Numbers 21:1-20, John 3:14-21

Verse: *"My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40*

Principle: God provides a way for those who love, trust and believe in Him to live with Him forever.

Gospel Application: The bronze serpent is a picture of Jesus; whoever looks to Jesus in faith will be saved from the death their sin causes.

Fall Week 18

Topic: Balaam's attempt to curse Israel

Scripture: Numbers 22:1-24:25

Verse: *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19*

Principle: God's great plan stands firm forever and will never change.

Gospel Application: When we trust in Jesus, nobody can take us away from Him.

Fall Week 19

Topic: GROUP ACTIVITY Choose Life!

Scripture: Deuteronomy 1-26 (Recount History), 27-28 (Blessings and Curses), 29-30 (Choose)

Verse: *"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." Deuteronomy 30:19b*

Principle: Each person must choose to believe and obey God which leads to His blessing and eternal life.

Gospel Application: Jesus' death and the ability to be with God allows believers to know what God wants and the power to obey.

NOTE: This will be a group activity with drama, and participation for the kids. As the date draws near, individual teachers will be asked to play specific parts and join in the fun!!

Fall Week 20 (Christmas)

Topic: The Birth of Jesus (God's provision for our salvation!)

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20; John 1:1-18

Verse: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23*

Principle: God sent His Son Jesus as His gift to save those who believe from sin and death.

NOTE: Please feel free to use any or all of the above Scriptures in planning your story. You may even just decide to plan a birthday party for Jesus!

Fall Week 21 (After Christmas)

Topic: Moses Commissions Joshua

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1-32:47

Verse: *"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8*

Principle: God may choose new people to lead, but God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Gospel Application: Jesus leads people into the Kingdom of God to be with God just like Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land to be with God.

Fall Week 22 (After Christmas)

Topic: Moses' Death

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12

Verse: *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24*

Principle: Everyone dies here on earth, but those who love and believe in Jesus will live with Him in heaven forever.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 2, Winter/Spring

Book(s): John

Theme: Jesus, the Son of God

Gospel Application: Jesus is the promised Savior who came to rescue us from sin's captivity (like Moses) and lead us into the Kingdom of God (like Joshua).

Winter wk 1 (Sunday before Christmas)

Topic: The Word – Jesus' Birth

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Verse: *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)*

Principle: Jesus, who is God, came to earth as a baby.

Winter wk 2 (after Christmas)

Topic: Messiah – Jesus Begins His Ministry

Scripture: John 1:29-51

Verse: *"[Andrew said to his brother Simon Peter] 'We have found the Messiah, that is the Christ'" (John 1:41b)*

Principle: Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Winter wk 3

Topic: Worker of Miracles - The Wedding Miracle

Scripture: John 2:1-11, 3:27-29

Verse: *"You are the God who performs miracles: you display your power among the people" (Psalm 77:14)*

Principle: Jesus performs miracles to reveal His glory and so people put their faith in Him.

NOTE: Be sure to define a miracle as something only God can do.

Winter wk 4

Topic: Son of God - Nicodemus

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Verse: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

Principle: God sent Jesus so all who believe in Him can live with Him forever.

Winter wk 5

Topic: Savior of the World – Woman at the Well

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Verse: *"As for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7)*

Principle: Jesus came to save ALL who seek God in spirit and truth.

Winter wk 6

Topic: Bread of Life – Feeding the 5000

Scripture: John 6:1-15, 25-51

Verse: *"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'" (John 6:35)*

Principle: God provided His Son, Jesus, who is all we need for life.

Winter wk 7

Topic: The Christ – Teaching at the Feast of Tabernacles (Streams of Living Water)

Scripture: John 7:1-52 (Background John 5:1-15 explains the subject matter and reason for Jesus' teaching)

Verse: *"I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world" (John 11:27)*

Principle: Jesus is the Christ.

Winter wk 8

Topic: Light of the World – Tabernacle Teachings Continued

Scripture: John 8:12-59

Verse: *"[Jesus said] 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12)*

Principle: Jesus is the light that points people to God.

Winter wk 9

Topic: Son of Man – Man Born Blind

Scripture: John 9

Verse: *"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25b)*

Principle: Jesus reveals Himself to those who respond to Him.

Winter wk 10

Topic: Resurrection and Life - Lazarus

Scripture: John 11:1-45

Verse: *"[Jesus said] 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'" (John 11:25-26)*

Principle: Jesus possesses God's power over life and death.

Winter wk 11 (Palm Sunday)

Topic: King of Israel – Jesus Anointed, Triumphal Entry

Scripture: John 12:1-19

Verse: *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12:13b)*

Principle: God's Son Jesus is the King.

Winter/spring wk 12

Topic: Servant – Foot Washing

Scripture: John 13:1-17, Philippians 2:5-11

Verse: *"Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14-15)*

Principle: Jesus, who is God, loves and serves people.

Winter/spring wk 13

Topic: Way, Truth and Life – Prediction of Death, Betrayal, and Preparation of a Place

Scripture: John 13:18-30, 14:1-14

Verse: *"[Jesus said] 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6)*

Principle: It was God's plan for Jesus to be the only way to spend eternity with Him.

Winter/spring wk 14

Topic: Prince of Peace – Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

Scripture: John 14:15-31, 15:18-16:33

Verse: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

Principle: God sends the Holy Spirit to remind believers of the truth that Jesus has overcome the world.

Winter/spring wk 15

Topic: True Vine – Teaching on the Vine and the Branches

Scripture: John 15:1-17

Verse: *"[Jesus said] 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing'" (John 15:5)*

Principle: Jesus considers those who believe in Him to be His friends and gives them some of His important work to do.

Winter/spring wk 16

Topic: Intercessor – Jesus' Prayer

Scripture: John 17, Hebrews 4:14-5:10, 7:23-25

Verse: *"There [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them" (Heb 7:25)*

Principle: Jesus is sitting at God's right hand in heaven praying for you.

Winter/spring wk 17 (Palm Sunday)

Topic: I AM - Jesus' Arrest in the Garden and Trial

Scripture: John 18:1-11; 19-24; 28-40

Verse: *"I tell you the truth, 'Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'" (John 8:58)*

Principle: Jesus, who is God, submitted Himself to sinful men.

Winter/spring wk 18 (Easter)

Topic: Lamb of God - Crucifixion

Scripture: John 19:1-42

Verse: *"Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29b)*

Principle: God's perfect Son Jesus died as a sacrifice for all the sins of each person in the world.

NOTE: Please take advantage of this great opportunity to share the gospel.

Winter/spring wk 19 (After Easter)

Topic: LORD - Resurrection

Scripture: John 20:1-31

Verse: *"These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).*

Principle: Jesus is alive.

Winter/spring wk 20

Topic: Good Shepherd - Peter

Scripture: John 10:1-18, 13:31-38, 18:12-18, 25-27, 21:1-22

Verse: *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10: 27-28)*

Principle: Jesus takes care of His people through other people.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 2, Spring/Summer

Book(s): 1Peter, 2Peter, Jude, James (with selected Proverbs)

Theme: Lessons Learned While Walking With Jesus to Combat the Lies of This World

Overview: The purpose of these 4 books and the lessons below is to sharply contrast the Christian world view with the typical world's view. By walking with Jesus, Peter, James and Jude learned the difference between living in the kingdom of heaven and in the world, and that living in the world is hard because can be very tempting and feel good. These lessons teach that Jesus' way is the best way. Only **God can change believers in Jesus, giving them the ability to be different.** He does that when we choose to listen to His words, **turn our back on the world's ways, and choose to follow Him.**

Spring Week 1 (After Easter: See Sample Lesson)

Topic: INTRO – This World is not our home.

Scripture: 1Peter 1:1-12, 2Peter 1:1-15

Proverbs: Proverbs 8:22-9:18

Verse: *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26*

Principle: God changes believers in Jesus, giving them the ability to be different.

Spring Week 2

Topic: The world tells you if it feels good, do it . . . Jesus tells you to live in holiness.

Scripture: 1Peter 1:13-2:3, John 14:23-24; 15:9-17 (The one who loves Jesus obeys Him)

Proverbs: 11:5-11, 11:18-20, 19:16, 20:7

Verse: *"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" 1Peter 1:14-16*

Principle: Jesus calls you to live a holy life.

Spring Week 3

Topic: The world tells you to believe in whatever works for you . . . Jesus teaches that only He is our firm foundation.

Scripture: 1Peter 2:4-12, Matthew 16:13-19 (Peter's confession of Jesus)

Proverbs: 9:10-12, 12:28, 14:26-27, 18:10

Verse: *"Each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:10b-11*

Principle: We must build our life on Jesus and what He teaches.

Spring Week 4

Topic: The world teaches you there are many ways to get to God . . . Jesus teaches you to trust **ONLY** in Him for your salvation. He is the only way.

Proverbs: Proverbs 14:12

Scripture: 1Peter 1:3-12, Jude, Matthew 7:7-14 (Ask, seek, knock, narrow and wide gates)

Verse: *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14*

Principle: Believing and trusting in Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved.

Spring Week 6 (Summer)

Topic: The world teaches you to follow your dreams, you can do anything you wish . . . Jesus teaches us to be willing to be guided by God and His will for your life.

Scripture: 1Peter 4:1-11, James 4:13-17, Matthew 16:21-28 (Peter's rebuke of Jesus)

Proverbs: Proverbs 3:5-8, 28:26

Verse: *"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." 1John 2:17*

Principle: Jesus tells you to seek God's plan for your life.

Spring Week 7 (Summer)

Topic: The world tells you no one is your master. . . Jesus teaches you to live in submission.

Scripture: 1Peter 2:13-3:7, 5:5-11, Matthew 17:24-27, Matthew 22:15-22 (submitting to earthly authority)

Proverbs: Proverbs 24:21-22, 28:9, 29:18

Verse: *"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." Romans 13:1a*

Principle: Jesus tells us to submit to authority He has put over us.

Spring Week 8 (Summer)

Topic: The world tells you that God just wants you to be happy. Jesus tells you that belonging to Him brings suffering in the world, but blessings and joy from God.

Scripture: 1Peter 3:8-22; 4:12-19, James 1:1-18, Matthew 5:1-12 (Beatitudes)

Proverbs: 3:25-26, 15:13, 17:22, 25:20

Verse: *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12*

Principle: Jesus tells us that there will be suffering in the world but gives us the ability to find joy in it

Spring Week 9 (Summer)

Topic: The world teaches that you deserve to have what you want . . . Jesus teaches you to be content with what He gives you.

Scripture: James 4:1-12, 5:1-6, Luke 12:22-34 (Do not worry, seek His kingdom)

Proverbs: 14:30, 28:25

Verse: *"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." 1Timothy 6:6*

Principle: Jesus teaches you that God will provide everything you need and to be grateful for what He gives.

Spring Week 10 (Summer)

Topic: The world tells you lies and what you want to hear . . . Jesus teaches you to listen only to the truth of His word.

Scripture: 2Peter 1:16-2:22, Jude, Acts 3:1-4:22 (unschooled, ordinary men who had been with Jesus)

Proverbs: Proverbs 14:25, 21:28, 30:1-4

Verse: *"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power." 1 Corinthians 2:2-5*

Principle: Jesus teaches you that only God's truth has the power to change your life.

Spring Week 11 (Summer)

Topic: The world judges by appearance . . . Jesus tells us to treat all men equal because they are created in His image.

Scripture: James 2:1-13, Matthew 19:16-30 (Rich Young Ruler)

Proverbs: Proverbs 11:4, 11:28, 17:3, 23:4-5, 28:6, 28:21

Verse: *"But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." Matthew 19:30*

Principle: Jesus teaches you that hearts are more important than appearances.

Spring Week 12 (Summer)

Topic: The world teaches you that your faith should be private . . . Jesus teaches us that believing in Him affects how you live.

Scripture: James 1:19-27; 2:14-26, 1Peter 2:9-12, Matthew 26:31-46 (Sheep and Goats)

Proverbs: Proverbs 3:3-4, 11:25, 14:31, 19:17, 25:21-22, 28:27, 29:7

Verse: *"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:17*

Principle: Jesus teaches you that people who believe in Him demonstrate their faith with their actions.

Spring Week 13 (Summer)

Topic: The world teaches you that it is good to speak your mind . . . Jesus teaches that you to carefully guard your tongue.

Scripture: James 3:1-12, Luke 9:51-56 (Sons of Thunder)

Proverbs: Proverbs 10:11, 12:18, 15:1, 15:2, 15:4, 15:7, 15:23, 16:23, 18:21, 19:1, 25:11, 25:15

Verse: *"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3*

Principle: Jesus teaches us to speak kind, true, loving words that glorify God.

Spring Week 14 (Summer)

Topic: The world tells you to be independent. You can take care of whatever comes your way. . . Jesus teaches us to depend on God through prayer.

Scripture: James 5:13-16, Luke 18:1-8 (Parable of persistent widow)

Proverbs: 15:29, 16:1, 16:9, 16:33, 20:12

Verse: *"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" James 5:16b*

Principle: Jesus teaches you to take your needs to God in prayer and depend on Him to provide for you.

Spring Week 15 (Summer)

Topic: The world teaches you to live for today . . . Jesus reminds you to look forward to His second coming.

Scripture: 2Peter 3:1-13, Luke 12:35-48 (Lord's return like a thief in the night)

Proverbs: 10:28-29, 12:28

Verse: *"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." 2 Peter 3:11-12.*

Principle: Live your life as if Jesus were coming back today!!!

This World is Not Our Home
(Sample Lesson, suggested for about 4-5 grade) – for week 1
Introduction to Series on Lessons Learned While Walking With Jesus
1Peter, 2Peter, James, Jude (with selected Proverbs)

Spring Week 1 (After Easter)

Topic: INTRO – This world is not our home.

Scripture: 1Peter 1:1-12, 2Peter 1:1-15

Proverbs: Proverbs 8:22-36

Verse: *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

Principle: God changes believers in Jesus, giving them the ability to be different.

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Have you ever had the feeling that you just didn't fit in? Have you ever thought that the things that you learn at home or at Sunday School don't really match what you learn at school or on your sports team, or even from some of your friends? That is probably true, and there is a very good reason for it. We live in the kingdom of heaven, building our lives on the things that Jesus says are wise and true. People who do not follow Jesus live an entirely different way. We are going to spend the following weeks learning what Jesus said about how He wants us to live from some very interesting men in the Bible.

You probably know Peter pretty well. He was a fisherman who lived on the Sea of Galilee. He was a simple man who spent his days sleeping, and his nights fishing, and sold his fish for his living. One day, Jesus called Peter to leave his boat and his fishing net and even his friends and family to come be a fisher of men – that means to spend his days gathering people up and telling them how to be part of the kingdom of heaven. We know from reading about him that Peter loved Jesus, and that he jumped with his whole heart into everything that he did. We also know that everything about Peter changed after he had followed Jesus for awhile. His ideas about what to eat, where to live, how to spend his time . . . even how he worshipped God changed.

You might not know James and Jude as well. This is not the James that we read about a lot who was one of Jesus' disciples. This James and Jude were brothers, and they had a half brother that you do know really well. His name is Jesus. They grew up in the same house as Jesus. They ate dinner with him and played games with him. They learned to be carpenters with Jesus from their father Joseph. They knew Jesus better than anyone else. But, when Jesus turned thirty years old and began his ministry, and began telling the people about the kingdom of heaven, about how to be with God in heaven forever – they didn't believe Him. To them, Jesus was just their older brother who had always been a little different. They did not understand that He was the Son of God who had come to save the world from sin and death. They were quite often part of the group listening to Jesus, but sometimes they mocked him, challenged him, and failed to take him seriously. All of that changed, though after Jesus died and was raised again from the dead. They suddenly realized that all that Jesus had been saying had been true and that everyone in the world needed to know the truth about Him. Their lives changed as well. James became the most important leader of the Church in Jerusalem, and his brother Jude was an important prophet and teacher of the Jerusalem Church as well.

Peter and James and Jude had gone from ordinary country boys – regular guys who fished and built things – to important leaders in the most important cities in the world. But the truth was, they no longer fit in. They were no longer like their friends back home, and they didn't fit into the religious world in Jerusalem either. And there was a very good reason for that. That is because **God changes believers in Jesus, giving them the ability to be different.**

Let's talk about that difference for a few minutes. It says in the Bible that Jesus Christ is for us the wisdom from God (1 Cor 1:30). We have already learned that Jesus was with God and part of creating the entire universe. Part of what that shows us is that He knows everything about everything. So if Jesus tells us something, it is wise and good and true. His words bring us a living hope, and He has promised that if we believe in Him, we will be guaranteed an inheritance in heaven forever. Believing and looking forward to being with Him in heaven forever fills our hearts with joy. That makes us different. We can honestly look forward to the

future, KNOWING that we will go to heaven and be with Jesus. People in the world do not know that for sure. That makes them anxious and worried sometimes.

The Bible says in Proverbs that He calls to us. That He speaks to us in His Word, and He teaches us what is right and true and good. If we choose to follow His ways, we will be blessed. He will give us a good and fruitful life. But the Bible also says that following Him is not easy. Those who choose not to follow will make fun, they will disagree, they might even really dislike you. He tells us that on this earth, there will be suffering and trials, but those will help us believe Him and praise Him all the more, and grow closer and closer to Him. We learn from His words that living according to Jesus' ways is wise.

Proverbs also tells us that just as the ways of Jesus are wise, there is another way. It is the way of the world and it is foolishness. It is the ways of some of our friends at school, on our teams, and in our neighborhoods, even in our Sunday School classes who do not yet know and believe in Jesus. The ways of the world are loud, out of control and undisciplined. But, they are also tempting. The ways of the world look good, sound good and feel good. The very sad thing, though, is the way of the world leads to death, because those who live in the ways of the world will not go to heaven and spend eternity with Jesus. Those who refuse to follow Jesus and follow the ways of the world are very, very foolish.

The good news, though, is that when we believe in Jesus, we have all the power we need to obey and follow Him. As we learn about Him from the Bible and see how He works in our life we will be more and more sure, more and more secure that we are His, and He is ours. This makes us want to follow him more and more. It helps us grow to love Him, and as these things happen, God changes us – just like Peter and James and Jude were changed. And over a period of time, we become very different from those in the world around us.

It is hard to live in our world sometimes, though. We feel like we do not belong because we don't. We feel different because we are and it's a good thing. But it doesn't always feel so good. One thing Jesus told us that is very, very important to remember is **what good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?** Those who live the world's way might look really good and really happy, but they will never have eternal life. That is why it is so important to read our Bibles and learn what Jesus says. We need to remind ourselves what is good and true especially on those days when we feel bad. We need to be very careful to always be reminding yourself of what JESUS says, not what the world teaches us. When we know what HE says, we will be able to make decisions that please Him. God knew that this would be really, really hard, but He gave us a special gift to help us.

Even though Peter and James and Jude died a long, long time ago, part of their job was to write letters that we now have in our Bibles. These letters help us by reminding us of the truth Jesus taught. They are men who actually spent time with Jesus, who walked with Him and learned from Him, and who understand well the difference between the world and the kingdom of heaven. When we read their words, we can be changed, and be different. They also remind us of the blessings we will receive when we follow Him.

In the following weeks, we are going to be studying the books that Peter, James and Jude wrote, and remembering the lessons they learned about how to live in the kingdom of heaven from walking with Jesus. They understand just like your parents and your teachers know that living in the world is hard. They understand that the ways of the world are sometimes tempting, and feel good. But they also understand that choosing Jesus' way is the best way. And they also understand that only **God changes believers in Jesus, giving them the ability to be different.** He does that when we choose to listen to His words, **turn our back on the world's ways, and choose Him.** Let's set our minds throughout this summer to listen to Him and be changed. God has great plans for each one of you. . . but they all start with listening, and choosing to follow His ways and not the world's ways.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 3, Fall/Winter

Book(s): Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Theme: God Brings His People into the Promised Land – His Grace and Glory

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General Teaching Guidelines

Reinforce the Big Picture Every Week: In His interactions with humanity, God will establish a “kingdom” on earth only four times; in the Garden of Eden, in the Promised Land, spiritually throughout the earth under His “New Covenant”, and finally when he ushers in a New Heaven and New Earth. Joshua is the story of when God brought His people into one of those kingdoms. This book demonstrates much about how God relates to His chosen people, what He does for them, and what He expects of them in return. Great applications for today come straight from understanding that we are God’s chosen people today, and while this kingdom is spiritual instead of physical, God is the same God with the same help, hope and expectations of sinful man.

Using Grudem’s Systematic Theology: Today, God’s Kingdom is spiritual, not physical as in Joshua’s time. There are many differences in what God provides for us and what He expects of us. In order to assure a full understanding of the important biblical truths illustrated by these stories, please read the accompanying sections in Wayne Grudem’s book *Systematic Theology* as part of your lesson preparation. It is not necessary to explicitly teach the doctrine, as the most important take away point is still the principle. A full and foundational understanding of truth makes more accurate and effective communication to the students. Copies of this book are available for shared use in each classroom.

Make the Principle the Center Point of the Lesson: It is crucial to understand that the truth of God that lies behind the story is what changes lives, not the story itself. When building your weekly lessons, remember to make the principle the centerpiece of everything you do, not the story. The worship time, the classroom introductions, the bible story, the activities and the conclusion before dismissal should point back to the principle. Each week is your opportunity to set that truth solidly in their heart, and when added to all the others already placed, the foundations and walls of their beliefs about God will be strong.

Using Old Testament “Types”: Many Old Testament lessons can be applied to the people of God today, but much of what happened to the leaders and types of saviors are best applied only to leaders and our Savior today. For instance, when David slew Goliath, he acted as a type of savior, miraculously saving God’s people from sure defeat. It would be wrong to put ourselves in David’s place and draw application for ourselves in how to defeat foes. Instead, we should place ourselves in the place of the people to understand how God loves and saves us. Joshua is also a type of savior and a leader. Much of what happens to him applies today to leaders in general and Christ in particular. The people should identify more with the people of Israel.

Using the Gospel Application: Every story in the Bible points to our need for a savior either directly or indirectly. Joshua is a particularly clear example of how God saves His people and what His intentions are for them once saved. The Gospel application exposes a direct tie between what God was doing in Joshua's day with what He is doing today. God saves people by his grace, through our faith, and for His glory alone.

Follow God's Leading: This syllabus is not intended to replace God's leading in your teaching, but rather to free you to hear from Him and apply the truths to your individual students. Always be praying and listening as you build your lesson. Don't rely on what you've learned before, but learn afresh and share what you've learned.

Memory Verses: Brackets are provided on longer verses as suggestions to help shorten for younger children. These key passages can be memorized over the course of the study in lieu of the daily memory verses.

Key Passage Joshua 21:43-45: *"So the Lord gave Israel all the land He had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as He had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."*

Key Passage Hebrews 11:30-33, 39-40: *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised. . . These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect."*

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Fall wk 1 (School starts)

Topic: Review and Introduction

Scripture: Skim to review Exodus 1-20, Numbers 13-14, Deuteronomy 31-34, Main text is Joshua 1:1-9

Verse: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

Principle: God has prepared a place for His people and provides leaders to show them the way.

Gospel Application: Jesus is the leader and Savior provided by God who leads the way and makes it possible for God's people to enter the kingdom of heaven just as God used Joshua to lead the Israelites.

Doctrine: Person of Christ (Chapter 26, Section C, Page 541), New Heavens and New Earth (Chapter 57, Section A1 and 2, Page 1158).

Fall wk 2

Topic: Spying Out the Land – Meeting Rahab

Scripture: Joshua 2:1-24

Verse: *"But my righteous one will live by faith" Hebrews 10:38a*

Principle: God saves people who believe and trust Him.

Gospel Application: The kingdom of heaven is available to all people, but can only be entered by faith – that is believing and trusting God just as Rahab was able to enter the Promised Land.

Doctrine: Conversion (Chapter 35, Section A, Page 709-713)

Fall wk 3

Topic: Crossing the Jordan

Scripture: Joshua 1:10-18, 3:2-17, 4:1-24

Verse: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

Principle: Only God has the power to bring His people to the home He promises them.

Gospel Application: Crossing over from death to life into the kingdom of heaven is a miracle that is only possible with God's power just as crossing the Jordan was a miracle only God could accomplish.

Doctrine: Regeneration (Chapter 34, Section A, Page 699-700)

Fall wk 4

Topic: Circumcision/Passover, Last Manna

Scripture: Joshua 5:1-12

Verse: *"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. [And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.]" Romans 6:4 (NLT)*

Principle: God gives His people special traditions to observe to show that their old way of life is gone and to remember that He saved them from death.

Gospel Application: Those who follow Jesus into the kingdom of heaven by faith are baptized as a sign that they belong to Him, and celebrate communion to remember what He has done for them.

Doctrine: Baptism (Chapter 49, Section A, Page 966-969), the Lord's Supper (Chapter 50, Section A and B, Pages 988-991)

Fall wk 5

Topic: The Divine Commander

Scripture: Joshua 5:13-6:5

Verse: *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21*

Principle: God saves those who believe and trust Him and judges and condemns those who do not according to His perfect plan.

Gospel Application: Jesus Christ is the Savior, leading those who believe in Him for the forgiveness of their sins into the kingdom of heaven, but who will one day judge those who do not believe. (See Acts 10:42-45).

Doctrine: God's Incommunicable Attributes (Chapter 11, Section B, Pages 160-168), Conversion (Chapter 35, Section A, Pages 709-713), Final Judgment (Chapter 56, Sections A-C, Pages 1140-1146). See note below.

NOTE: Joshua's visitor is a Christophany – a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. Conquering Jericho was the first step in taking the Promised Land from the Canaanites. It might be helpful to review Genesis 15 which details God's covenant promising the land to Abraham's descendants but also pointing to a time when the sin of the Canaanites would be judged.

Fall wk 6

Topic: The "Battle" of Jericho

Scripture: Joshua 6:6-27

Verse: *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong . . . so that no one may boast before Him." 1 Corinthians 1:27, 29*

Principle: God is glorified in impossible situations when people trust and obey Him.

Gospel Application: God empowers believers in Jesus Christ to live by faith and obey Him.

Doctrine: Covenant of Grace (Chapter 25, Section C, Pages 519-520)

Fall wk 7

Topic: Achan and Ai

Scripture: Joshua 7:1-8:35

Verse: *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to [put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.]" Ephesians 4:22-24*

Principle: God's people are to be holy and obedient.

Gospel Application: God allows believers in Jesus Christ to participate in His work in the kingdom of God. Willful sin in a believer's life damages one's relationship with God and hinders the ability to do God's work.

Doctrine: Sin (Chapter 24, Section 5b, Pages 505-506), Sanctification (Chapter 38, Section A and C, Pages 746-748, 753-756)

Fall wk 8

Topic: The Gibeonites

Scripture: Joshua 9:1-27

Verse: *"[Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction], and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14*

Principle: The ONLY way to be saved is by believing and trusting God.

Gospel Application: There are many people in our churches who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. While they may enjoy the blessing of being associated with God's people in this life (common grace), they can not enter the kingdom of heaven without true faith in Jesus Christ's sacrifice for their sins.

Doctrine: Conversion (Chapter 35, Section A, Pages 7-9-712), Common Grace (Chapter 31, Section B7, Pages 657-668)

Fall wk 9

Topic: Conquest of the Land – God’s Promises Fulfilled

Scripture: Joshua 10-12, 21:43-45

Verse: *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:28*

Principle: God keeps His promises.

Gospel Application: Those who have believed and trusted God by placing their faith in Jesus Christ can be certain that they have entered the kingdom of heaven. They are assured of eternal life in heaven with God according to His promises.

Doctrine: Covenant (Chapter 25, Page 515), Perseverance of the Saints (Chapter 40, Sections A and D, Pages 788 and 803)

NOTE: Joshua 13-21 largely details the allocation of the land to the individual tribes. It is important to mention this as God allowed Israel to conquer and destroy the inhabitants of the land and kept His promises to Israel. Great detail is unnecessary, however.

Fall wk 10

Topic: Commitment to Follow and Obey

Scripture: Joshua 22-24

Verse: *"[But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God], that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:8-9*

Principle: God faithfully blesses those who choose to follow and obey Him.

Gospel Application: Being one of God’s people in His kingdom under His rule by faith in His Son Jesus Christ is the greatest of all of God’s blessings.

Doctrine: Covenant (Chapter 25, Sections A and C, Pages 515-518, 519-521), Sanctification (Chapter 38, Section E, Pages 757-758)

Fall wk 11

Topic: Israel’s Inability to Fully Obey God and God’s Consequences For Their Disobedience

Scripture: Joshua 13:13, 15:63 16:10, 17:11-13; Judges 1:17-3:6; Psalm 14

Verse: *"All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." Psalm 14:3*

Principle: God brings hard consequences for disobedience.

Gospel Application: All people are born sinful before God and deserve the penalty of death.

Doctrine: Sin (Chapter 24, Section C2, Page 497)

Fall wk 12

Topic: Israel's Cycle of Disobedience, Crying Out to the Lord and His Gracious Rescue

Scripture: Judges 3:7-31; Psalm 103

Verse: *"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Psalm 103:8*

Principle: God saves His people according to His gracious character, not because of anything good or worthy in people.

Gospel Application: Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift of God given because of His gracious character, not the goodness or worthiness of people

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 12, Section C, Pages 197-207, Justification (Chapter 32, Section C2 Paragraph C, Page 678)

NOTE: The key principle throughout the book of Judges is that God delivers His people according to His character and for His glory. The important sub-point is that God uses such unlikely people to accomplish His purposes.

Fall wk 13

Topic: Deborah and Barak

Scripture: Judges 4-5; Psalm 51

Verse: *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions" Psalm 51:1*

Principle: God saves His people out of His compassion for their suffering, even though their pain is due to sin.

Gospel Application: Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift of God given because of His compassion for people who live in the slavery of their sin.

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 12, Section C8, Page 200)

NOTE: The key principle throughout the book of Judges is that God delivers His people according to His character and for His glory. The important sub-point is that God uses such unlikely people as Deborah and Jael, as women, and Barak, who greatly lacked in confidence and security.

Fall wk 14

Topic: Gideon

Scripture: Judges 6:1-8:32; Psalm 136

Verse: *"With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever." Psalm 136:12*

Principle: God conquers His peoples' enemies with His incomparable strength.

Gospel Application: Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift of God in which He conquers our enemies of sin and death forever.

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 13, Section D16, Page 216)

NOTE: The key principle throughout the book of Judges is that God delivers His people according to His character and for His glory. The important sub-point is that God uses such unlikely people as Gideon who was weak and frightened.

Fall wk 15

Topic: Israel's Faithless Cycle Continues

Scripture: Judges 8:33-12:15; Psalm 78

Verse: *"[Yet He was merciful; He forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them.] Time after time He restrained His anger and did not stir up His full wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return." Psalm 78:38-39.*

Principle: God forgives wickedness, rebellion and sin out of His great mercy for His people.

Gospel Application: Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift of God where He forgives His peoples' wickedness, rebellion, and sin out of His great mercy for them.

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 12, Section C6-8, Pages 197-200)

NOTE: This portion of Scripture details the brutal and violent stories of Abimelech and Jephthah as well as several other judges. The section to be emphasized is Judges 10:10-16.

Fall wk 16

Topic: Ruth

Scripture: Ruth; Psalm 23

Verse: *"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6*

Principle: God redeems His [people resulting in protection and blessing.

Gospel Application: Redemption through Jesus Christ is a gift of God that brings the blessings of a heavenly home, a heritage of faith, and an eternal family to those who were lost.

Doctrine: Redemption (Chapter 25, Section B, Page 518-519), Adoption (Chapter 37, Pages 736-742)

Fall wk 17

Topic: Samson

Scripture: Judges 13:1-16:31; Psalm 119:1-96

Verse: *"Strengthen me according to Your Word." Psalm 119:28b*

Principle: God strengthens His imperfect servants to accomplish His purposes.

Gospel Application: Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift of God in which He transforms weak and imperfect people into strong servants for His glory.

Doctrine: Sanctification (Chapter 38, Section D, Page 756-757)

NOTE: The key principle throughout the book of Judges is that God delivers His people according to His character and for His glory. The important sub-point is that God uses such unlikely people as Samson who was carnal and selfish.

Fall wk 18

Topic: In Those Days, Israel Had No King

Scripture: Judges 17-21; Psalm 80

Verse: *"Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved." Psalm 80:3*

Principle: It is impossible for people who do not follow God as their king to enter the kingdom of heaven or to live lives that glorify Him.

Gospel Application: God in His great grace provided His Son Jesus to restore our broken relationship with Him, to rescue His people from sin and death, to lead the way home to the kingdom of heaven, and to glorify Himself.

Doctrine: Sin (Chapter 24, Section C and E, Page 494, 509-510), Justification (Chapter 36, Section D, Page 729)

Fall wk 19-21 (Before, week of and after Christmas)

Use Christmas lessons from other years

Sample Lesson

Topic: Review and Introduction

Scripture: Skim to review Exodus 1-20, Numbers 13-14, Deuteronomy 31-34, Main text is Joshua 1:1-9

Verse: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

Principle: God has prepared a place for His people and provides leaders to show them the way.

Gospel Application: Jesus is the leader and Savior provided by God who leads the way and makes it possible for God's people to enter the kingdom of heaven just as God used Joshua to lead the Israelites.

Doctrine: Person of Christ (Chapter 26, Section C, Page 541), New Heavens and New Earth (Chapter 57, Section A1 and 2, Page 1158).

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Finally!! It was the day Joshua had been waiting for for years and years and years.

Joshua had been born a slave in the land of Egypt. Life was very hard in Egypt. All day long in the blazing heat, Joshua and his family and everyone they knew worked very hard making bricks. And their masters were very cruel. But an amazing thing had happened. God had sent a man named Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt and into a new land – a wonderful and special land God had promised where His people could live and enjoy and worship God. They called this land the Promised Land. Joshua had dreamed of living in the Promised Land his whole life.

Joshua had even SEEN the Promised Land. After the people had left Egypt, God led them through the desert. God had done amazing things, like making the ocean part down the middle so the people could pass through to the other side. He made water flow out of a rock, and rained down bread on the people from heaven to feed them. Then He came down on a mountain in a great cloud with thunder and lightning and told the people all about how to worship and obey Him. Joshua got to see all of this happen.

Then, it was time to go into the Promised Land. Joshua and eleven other men were sent to go into the Promised Land, to see what it was like. What they found were grapes so big they had to carry them on poles, and a wonderful and beautiful place flowing with milk and honey. Joshua and his friend Caleb were so excited. They had also seen people living there, but they trusted and believed that God would give them the land just as He had promised. They couldn't wait to get started. But, the other men who had gone with them were afraid. They did not believe that God would defeat all of their enemies in the land. They convinced all of the people to doubt God. God really does require His people to trust and believe Him. And since the people did not, they had to wander in the desert for forty years, until all of the people who did not trust and believe God died. How very sad Joshua had been. Now, instead of living out his years in the wonderful Promised Land, he had to wander in the hot, dry, miserable desert. Finally, even Moses died – and the people were still in the desert. But before Moses died, God chose a new leader for the people. Joshua. Joshua was the new leader who would lead this new group of people into the Promised Land.

And this was the day that he had been waiting for his entire life. It was time to go into the Promised Land.

Joshua knew it was time, because God Himself spoke to him. In front of them lay a great and raging river. On the other side of the river was the Promised Land. God told him to get the people ready to cross the river, and told him all about the land He was promising to give them. Then He made a great promise to Joshua. He told Him that He would never leave him, or forsake him. It might be hard and scary, but God would be right there, giving Joshua and the people strength and courage. God had set this land apart for His people, and promised it to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob many, many years before, and God would keep His promises. Joshua knew that God would. He believed and trusted Him, and Joshua was very excited to go into this wonderful land that God had promised. **God had prepared a place for His people and provides leaders to show them the way.** He had prepared the Promised Land, and given the people a new leader named Johsua.

We are going to be hearing amazing stories about what God did to keep those promises to Joshua and to His people in the next weeks. But there is one more thing we need to think about when we talk about Joshua. Did you know that Joshua's name means the exact same thing as the name Jesus? It means Jehovah (another name for God) is salvation. God is salvation. God gave Joshua to the people in our story to show them the way to get into the Promised Land.

But do you know that God prepared a place for us too? And did you know that He gave us a leader to show us the way to get to that place? God prepared the kingdom of heaven for us. The kingdom of heaven is anywhere we are if we follow God as our King. If we believe and trust Him – if we have faith in Him – we are in the kingdom of heaven. And He provided a leader to show us the way and to make it possible for us to enter the kingdom of heaven. The Bible tells us that Jesus is ***"the way and the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him."*** When we believe that Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for all of our sins, and trust that what God says is true, we get to be part of the kingdom of heaven and follow Jesus. **Jesus is the leader and Savior provided by God who leads the way and makes it possible for God's people to enter the kingdom of heaven, just as God used Joshua to lead the Israelites.**

For the people in Joshua's time and for us, we need to follow our leader. Only Joshua with God's help would be able to help the people get into the Promised Land, and only Jesus with God the Father's help would be able to make a way for us to be in the kingdom of heaven. Let's follow our leader Jesus as He leads us through our days here on this earth, and then one day, into His presence where we will actually be able to see His face. That will be a wonderful day! Even better than the day Joshua waited for to enter the Promised Land. That day will be the best!

God has prepared a place for His people and provides leaders to show them the way.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 3, Winter/Spring

Book(s): Mark

Theme: Jesus' Miracles – What Jesus does for those who believe.

Winter Wk 1 (After New Year)

Topic: John the Baptist – We are shown that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8, Luke 7:18-35, John 5:31-39, John 10:22-42, Hebrews 2:1-4, Isaiah 61:1-3

Verse: *"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31.*

Doctrine Principle: The miracles of Jesus show that He is God's Son.

NOTE: See Sample Story for ideas about how to integrate these Scriptures and Principle.

Winter Wk 2

Topic: Jesus heals the leper – We are cleansed

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45, Leviticus 13:1-46, and 14:1-32

Verse: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:9 (NASB)*

Doctrine Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He washes the rottenness of sin away.

NOTE: Please read the Leviticus passages to enhance your understanding of what a person living with leprosy faced. You will want to share some, but probably not all of that information in your story, as is appropriate to the age of your students.

Winter Wk 3

Topic: Jesus heals and forgives the paralytic – We are forgiven

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Verse: *"All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He helps us walk in obedience to Him.

Winter Wk 4

Topic: Jesus heals the man with the withered hand – We are restored

Scripture: Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-6, Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Verse: *"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son." Romans 5:10 (NLT)*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, our ruined relationship with God is restored. **See note:**

NOTE: The Deuteronomy passage helps to clarify what God commanded about the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments. Picking a handful of grain to eat and healing the sick were requirements of the religious leaders, not God.

Winter Wk 5

Topic: Jesus Calms the Sea – We are preserved

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Verse: *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."*
Proverbs 18:10

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, we know we are always safe with Him.

Winter Wk 6

Topic: Jesus Casts Out Demons – We are redeemed

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

Verse: *"It was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" 1Peter 1:18-19*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, we are redeemed and we should tell others about His mercy.

Winter Wk 7

Topic: Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter from the Dead – We are given life

Scripture: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Verse: *"But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God's grace that you have been saved." (NLT) Ephesians 2:4-5*

NOTE: Suggested shortening of this verse for the youngest kids is "God gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead."

Doctrine Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He makes us alive in Him.

Winter Wk 8

Topic: Deaf/Mute – We are given godly knowledge and words.

Scripture: Mark 7:31-37

Verse: *"We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak." 1 Corinthians 2:12-13a.*

Doctrine Principle: When we believe in Jesus, we can hear His truth, and share that truth with others.

Winter Wk 9

Topic: Jesus Multiplies Bread – We are gifted to share

Scripture: Mark 6:33-44, 8:1-21

Verse: *"[God gives His people gifts] to prepare His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:12*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He helps us take what He has given us and share it with others to show His love.

NOTE: The two passages are describing two different times that Jesus fed crowds of people beginning with just a little bit of food. You are welcome to choose one of these times, or use both as is appropriate for your class.

Winter Wk 10

Topic: The Transfiguration - We are transformed

Scripture: Mark 9:2-13, 1 Corinthians 15:20-58, Philippians 3:20-21

Verse: *"We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is." 1 John 3:2b*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, we are changed and will someday be like Him.

Winter Wk 11

Topic: Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus – We are given understanding

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

Verse: *"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe." Ephesians 1:18-19.*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He gives us understanding of who He is.

Winter Wk 12 (Palm Sunday)

Topic: Triumphal Entry – Jesus Curses the Fig Tree – We are held accountable

Scripture: Mark 11:1-26, John 15:1-11

Verse: *"So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He commands us to live out that belief in our words and actions.

NOTE: Jesus showed in the cursing of the fig tree and in His explanation of the vine and the branches that those trees and branches that do not bear fruit will wither and burn up. The temple was as withered and fruitless as the fig tree, and it also would be cursed and removed for producing no fruit. It is important to acknowledge in all we do who Jesus Christ is and that it is only through Him and for His kingdom that our work and our life has any lasting value.

Winter Wk 13 (Easter Sunday)

Topic: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection – We are loved

Scripture: Mark 14:12-16:13

Verse: *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1John 4:10*

Principle: God loves each person so much, that He sent Jesus to die and pay the price for our sin.

Extra Story to be used in years that need an extra lesson

Topic: Jesus Heals Demon Possessed Boy – We are given faith

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Verse: *"Everything is possible for him who believes." Mark 9:23*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He helps our unbelief.

Sample Story

Topic: John the Baptist – We are shown that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8, Luke 7:18-35, John 5:31-39, John 10:22-42, Hebrews 2:1-4, Isaiah 61:1-3

Verse: *"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31.*

Principle: The miracles of Jesus show that He is God's Son.

Whoa! Check out the dude in the river!! What on earth is he wearing? It looks like some kind of fur shirt – with belt around his waist. Weird! What is he eating? Is that bugs??? EEEWWW!!! What is he talking about? Oh! I think maybe I had better listen. It sounds important!!

The man in the river was a man named John. We know him as John the Baptist, and yes he dressed strangely – even for the time he lived. He wore a shirt-like piece of clothing made of camel hair, and tied a leather belt around his waist. And it is true, he did eat locusts and honey for his dinner. But the most important thing about John was not what he wore or what he ate, but what he announced – or maybe we should say WHO he announced. And yes – his message was VERY IMPORTANT.

A long, long time before John was born, he was written about by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah wrote that before Jesus came to the earth, God would send a messenger ahead of Him to help people get ready. Just as God promised in the Bible, John was that messenger, and John took his job very seriously. All day, every day, John stood in the desert, telling people that they had sin in their lives and that they needed to repent. You might wonder what sin is, and what is wrong with having it in your life. Sin is disobeying God. Every time we disobey God, we build a wall between Him and us. We cannot be close to God with sin in our life. We can't see Him or hear Him. We can't be with Him when we die. But

God had a solution to the sin in our lives. The solution was in the very special announcement that John was making, but before people can see God's solution, it is important to repent. Repenting means to be sorry for our sins, turn our back on them, and to want to live the right way. Some people listened to John. They repented – said they were sorry for their sins and wanted to turn their lives around. John baptized those people in the Jordan River – that's why he's called John the Baptist. But some people did not listen. Some argued and made fun of John. But John kept right on sharing his message.

And here's the most important part. John was telling the people to repent and to get ready because someone much more powerful, and holy and wonderful than he was was coming. That someone was Jesus, God's Son and Jesus would be coming soon.

But how would we recognize Jesus when He came? The prophet Isaiah also wrote about Jesus, long before He was born. Isaiah said that Jesus would preach good news, and he would do many, many miraculous things. Isaiah said that Jesus would be coming to talk about God's love for His people, to comfort them, to show them a better, happier, way to live, and to change their lives as a demonstration of His power, splendor and glory. And that is exactly what Jesus did. In the next weeks, we are going to be learning about some of the miracles Jesus did. Those miracles prove that Jesus is God's Son – that He was sent by His Father God, and that everything that He did was in His Father God's will, with God's power.

But how did Jesus solve the problem of sin in our lives? That's the most amazing thing. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin are death. Someone must die to pay the price for our sin. That is the only way to tear down the wall sin builds between us and God. The Bible also says that God loves us so much, that He sent His Son Jesus – to die in our place. That is why He came, and that is why He died. And because He did, when we believe in that truth, that wall of sin is destroyed. We can be with God forever. We can hear Him and understand His words. We are forgiven, and given important work to do. Believing in Jesus changes everything in our lives, and the miracles that He did give us a tiny glimpse of what He does in the life of someone who is willing to follow Him.

Later on in John's life, he began to worry that Jesus really was who He said He was. When he asked Jesus about this, Jesus reminded him of Isaiah's words, and that Jesus was doing all the things that Isaiah said He would. Jesus really is God's Son.

So what about you and me? We can't hear John the Baptist's words – he died a long time ago. And we can't see the miracles that Jesus did. But what we can do is read our Bibles and listen to our parents and Sunday School teachers when they tell us all about the amazing things that Jesus did, and remember that God promised He would do all of those things a long, long time before He was born.

Our verse says, **"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name."** John 20:30-31. This is the most important thing. We can read about Jesus' miracles in the Bible so that we will know for certain He is who He says He is and that He is able to do what He says. And what does this verse say He will do for us? It says we can have eternal life when we believe in Him. **Jesus' miracles help us be assured that He is God's Son and that when we believe in Him, we will be able to have eternal life – just like He promised.**

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 3, Spring/Summer

Book(s): Acts, Romans, Galatians

Theme: Building the Church Through the Gospel

Key Verse: *"Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen." Romans 16:25-27*

- On June 17, the story is of Paul and Barnabas being called and sent out on Paul's first missionary journey. This would be a great opportunity to plan ahead and invite some missionaries to class. Since the Scripture passage is very short, it could almost serve as an introduction for a guest to come and speak about sharing the truth about Jesus Christ with those in another country or culture. The curriculum schedule could also be adjusted to accommodate scheduling challenges for guest speakers.
- The longer verses contain bracketed passages to suggest how they may be shortened to accommodate the younger children.

Spring wk 1 (After Easter)

Topic: (Last Lesson of Mark) Great Commission and Ascension – We are commissioned and empowered.

Scripture: Mark 16:15-20

Verse: *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1:16*

Principle: When we believe in Jesus, He commands us to share the gospel and provides the power to changes lives.

April 22

Topic: Introduction and Transition

Scripture: Acts 1:12 -8:4

Verse: *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached as a testimony to all nations" Matthew 24:14a*

Principle: God spreads the gospel to people across the world in many ways.

Main Points:

- *Returned to Jerusalem – upper room prayer
- *Pentecost – coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter's gospel sermon, 3000 believed, some stayed in Jerusalem and built a community of believers

*Apostles go share gospel at Temple – miracles, healings, more believe

*BUT – religious officials were unhappy with teachings of Jesus. They arrested, threatened, put in prison, and flogged, but as the believers prayed, God strengthened them, they grew even more courageous and bold.

*Finally, though, the religious leaders had enough. A man named Stephen was so wise and filled with the Spirit, they became enraged as he spoke about Jesus through the gospel. He was stoned to death by religious leaders.

*It was now very dangerous to be a Christian in Jerusalem because a great persecution arose. Many scattered around the world, which was all part of God's plan to have believers everywhere who were able to share the gospel.

NOTE: This material has already been covered, and it is just a review to give continuity to the story of what happened after Jesus gave the great commission and ascended and before Saul's conversion.

Spring wk 1

Topic: Who was Saul?

Scripture: Philippians 3:4-6, Acts 22:3-5, 26:4-11, Galatians 1:13-14, Romans 1:18-3:20

Verse: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23*

Principle: Every person is born as a sinner and deserves to die for their sins.

NOTE: It is important to emphasize and explain the sin nature of all people, however, please feel free to encourage your students that next week, you will be talking about the remedy God provided for our sin in Jesus Christ.

Spring wk 2

Topic: Saul's Conversion

Scripture: Acts 9:1-25, Romans 3:21-31, 5:1-21

Verse: *"For there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of forgiveness to many through this other man Jesus Christ." Romans 5:15 (NLT).*

Principle: Jesus took our punishment for our sin when He died on the cross.

NOTE: For the younger classes, please word the verse as *"But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ." Romans 5:15.*

Spring wk 3

Topic: God saves people by faith

Scripture: Romans 3:21-4:25

Verse: *"Yet (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, [being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised]." Romans 4:20-21*

Principle: God saves people who believe and trust Him. See note below.

NOTE: Please pray about how to present this material to your class in an age appropriate way. You are free to do this as God leads. One idea to get your thinking started would be to

discuss Paul's life, and how he was trying to please God by his zeal for the Jewish religion, as a contrast to being saved by His faith in Jesus Christ. Another idea would be to state that Paul wrote this book of the Bible, and he used Abraham as an example, then simply use the story of Abraham in Romans 4.

Spring wk 4

Topic: Peter and Cornelius

Scripture: [Galatians 1:11-24 with Acts 9:26-31] Acts 10:1-11:18

NOTE: The bracketed passages are provided to give continuity of the story of Paul. During the time of this story, he was spending his three years in Arabia. This information may be or need not be included in your story as you feel appropriate for your class.

Verse: *"For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – [the same Lord is Lord of all] and richly blesses all who call on Him." Romans 10:12*

Principle: The gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ is for all people.

Spring wk 5

Topic: The Church at Antioch

Scripture: Acts 11:19-26, Romans 5-7

Verse: *Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17*

Principle: God uses believers to speak of the good news of Jesus.

NOTE: Please use this opportunity to emphasize the gospel message with your students.

Spring wk 6

Topic: What is the gospel? How can we share it?

Scripture: Romans 8:1-17, 11:33-36

Additional Scriptures: You may use previous gospel presentations in the book of Acts to illustrate if you wish. Suggestions include Peter in Acts 2:14-40, Peter and John in Acts 3:8-12, Stephen in Acts 7, or Peter in Acts 10:34-43.

Verse: *"[If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10*

Principle: The gospel is the good news of how God rescued people from their sin through Jesus Christ.

Spring/summer wk 7

Topic: James killed and Peter imprisoned – Persecution and Suffering

Scripture: Acts 12:1-19, Romans 8:18-39

Verse: *"And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28*

Principle: God uses hard times to strengthen a believer's faith and to give them an opportunity to share the gospel with others.

Spring/summer wk 8

Topic: Paul and Barnabas Sent

Scripture: Acts 13:1-5

Verse: *"I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Romans 9:17*

Principle: God calls and sends believers all over the world to share the gospel.

NOTE: This would be a terrific Sunday to highlight missions in general and even specific missionaries.

Summer wk 9

Topic: Elymas Blinded – Satan's attack on the work of God

Scripture: Acts 13:5-14

Verse: *"Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Romans 13:12b*

Principle: Satan's attacks on the spread of the gospel are to be expected but God's victory is certain.

Summer wk 10

Topic: At Psidian Antioch

Scripture: Acts 13:15-52, Romans 9:1-11:32

Verse: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13*

Principle: Though many will hear the gospel, only some will believe and receive eternal life.

Summer wk 11

Topic: Iconium and Lystra (plots, healings, false worship, and a stoning)

Scripture: Acts 14:1-20, Romans 12:1-8

Verse: *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Romans 8:18*

Principle: Believers in Jesus sacrifice their own desires and comfort to allow others to hear the truth of the gospel.

Summer wk 12

Topic: The Jerusalem Council and each believer's freedom in Christ

Scripture: Acts 15:1-35, Galatians 2:1-10, 3:1-5:15, Romans 16:17-19

Verse: *"No one is justified before God by the law, because, 'the righteous will live by faith.'" Galatians 3:11*

Principle: People are saved by the grace of God, and not by observing the law.

NOTE: You may want to speak only generally of the requirements of the Jewish Law, instead of diving too deeply in a discussion of circumcision!

Summer wk 13

Topic: Peter's Compromise and Paul's Rebuke

Scripture: Galatians 2:11-21, Romans 13:1-7

Verse: *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20

Principle: Believers boldly follow and obey Christ and the authority He places over us, even if others do not.

Summer wk 14

Topic: Review of Paul's life – Living according to the Spirit

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26

Additional Scriptures: Any previous Scriptures from this unit. Please review Paul's life and work from our study so far to illustrate the contrast of living in the acts of our old sinful nature and living according to the Spirit.

Verse: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* Galatians 2:22-23

Principle: Believers' lives are transformed by the gospel and led by the Holy Spirit.

Summer wk 15

Topic: Living out our freedom in Christ

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21, 13:8-14, 14:1-15:13, Galatians 6:1-10

Verse: *"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* Galatians 6:10

Principle: Believers in Jesus Christ are distinguished by their love for one another.

Summer wk 16

Topic: Joining in the work of God for His glory

Scripture: Romans 15:14-33, 16:25-27, Galatians 6:14-16

Verse: *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."* Galatians 6:14

Principle: Believers are invited to share in God's work through prayer, giving, and speaking to others about Him.

Additional Lesson if time permits

Topic: Paul's last stops and establishing local churches

Scripture: Acts 14:21-28, Acts 2:42-47

Verse: *"(God) is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ."*
Romans 16:25a

Principle: Believers gather together in churches to know God better, to worship Him, and to care for each other.

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 4, Fall/Winter

Book(s): 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, Psalms

Theme: David is a picture of Jesus, our perfect and righteous King

Crucial Note: This entire section of the Old Testament points to our perfect and righteous King Jesus. David is a “type” of Jesus: a righteous king who has a true heart for God. Saul is a picture of worldly leadership: good looking on the outside (by the world's standards) but lacking righteousness and God's heart on the inside. Saul will lead out of fear of man and self preservation, using religious ceremonies and even the ark of God for his own benefit instead of God's glory. David, “a man after God's own heart”, will lead out of fear of and confidence in God, and despite his own failings, will lead in a manner that points toward God's perfect, righteous and eternal King of all mankind; Jesus Christ.

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Key Verse: *"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." Isaiah 9:6-7*

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Big Idea: The Perfect and Righteous King God has for us (David then and Jesus today) is far better than the corrupt leaders the world offers (like Saul then, and anyone else today)

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Teaching Helps:

Commit to reading 1st Samuel, 2nd Samuel and 1 Chronicles. Even though you may only be teaching a portion of these lessons, reading through the whole story while referring to the learning schedule will provide you with the necessary foundation to teach each lesson well.

“Tell the Story in Your Own Words” Several lessons cover large portions of Scripture and will require the ability to summarize the story in a much shorter form; without reading it word for word. Within the whole lesson, it is always a good idea to select a smaller portion of the assigned passages to read aloud or have the children read.

Brackets are provided on longer verses as suggestions to help shorten for younger children.

Review systematic truths listed at the end of each lesson in order to assure a full understanding of the important biblical truths illustrated by these stories from the accompanying sections in Wayne Grudem's book *Systematic Theology* as part of your lesson preparation. It is not necessary to explicitly teach the doctrine, as the most important take away point is still the principle. A full and foundational understanding of truth makes more accurate and effective communication to the students. Copies of this book are available for shared use in each classroom.

Fall wk 1 (School Starts)

Topic: INTRO (see sample story at end)

Scripture: Genesis through Ruth especially emphasizing Genesis 1-3, Exodus 19:4-6, Judges 21:25

Verse: *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1*

Principle: God is the good King of His creation, but peoples' sin separates them from Him.

Gospel Application: God promised to solve the problem of sin by sending a perfect King, His Son Jesus Christ to save people from their sin and to perfectly reign over them.

Doctrine: Communicable Attributes of God (Chapter 13, Section D16, Pages 216-218); Providence (Chapter 16, Section C, Pages 331-332); Sin (Chapter 24, Sections A-C, Pages 490-498)

Fall wk 2

Topic: A Prophet to Prepare the Way for the King

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Verse: *"[You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior], the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas." Psalm 65:5*

Principle: Those who believe in God's promises can participate in the work of the kingdom of God by faithfully praying.

Gospel Application: Even in the darkest of times, God preserves a remnant of faithful believers who believe God's promises and pray for His kingdom to come.

Doctrine: Prayer (Chapter 18, Sections A, B1, C8, Pages 376-378, 387-388).

NOTE: This story presents an example of a dark time in both Hannah's life and the history of Israel. Hannah believed God's promises for Israel and for her personally and prayed in faith for His kingdom to come both in her personal situation and for Israel as a whole.

Fall wk 3

Topic: God Calls His Prophet from the Corruption of the Kingdom of the World

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:12-4:1

Verse: *"[The blameless spend their days under the Lord's care], and their inheritance will endure forever . . . but the wicked will perish, [though the Lord's enemies are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed], they will go up in smoke." Psalm 37:18, 20.*

Principle: God calls his prophets to announce an end to the kingdom of the world and proclaim the righteous kingdom of heaven.

Note: The "Kingdom of the World" is typical human leadership. In this case it is Eli and his sons. Later it will be Saul. Even Samuel's sons typify unrighteous, worldly leadership. All point to our need for righteous King Jesus reigning over the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel Application: God's righteous kingdom of heaven will be fulfilled when His perfect King Jesus reigns with Him in the new heavens and the new earth.

Doctrine: Communicable Attributes of God (Chapter 12, Section C9, Pages 202-203); New Heavens and New Earth (Chapter 57, Sections A and C, Pages 1158-1159, and 1163-1164).

NOTE: It is important to note that God is not removing the priesthood from Eli's family and placing it on Samuel. Samuel is not the faithful priest spoken of – this will not happen until further in Israel's future when Zadok became the first high priest not of Eli's line. Samuel is a prophet of the Lord, not a priest from the line of Aaron.

Fall wk 4

Topic: The Fruit of Repentance

Scripture: 1 Samuel 4:2-7:17

Verse: *"Surely Lord, you bless the righteous, you surround them with your favor as with a shield." Psalm 5:12*

Principle: Repenting from sin to follow and obey God as our King brings blessing.

Note: Saul was using the ark as a "good luck charm" to win the battle, and not as God intended.

Gospel Application: God promises the blessing of eternal life when people repent of their sin and acknowledge His kingship over their lives.

Doctrine: Covenant (Chapter 25, Intro and Section A, Pages 515-518); Repentance (Chapter 35, Section B, Pages 713-717).

Fall wk 5

Topic: A Worldly King for Israel

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1-12:25

Verse: *"It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their King." 1 Samuel 8:7b*

Principle: Following a worldly king brings terrible consequences. (see 1Sam 8:10)

Note: Believers are commanded to obey the earthly leaders God places over us (Rom 13:1-7), but Jesus is always our final authority.

Gospel Application: Looking to anyone or anything other than God for protection, provision and blessing leads to eternal separation from Him and death.

Doctrine: Sin (Chapter 24, Section C2, Pages 496-498).

Teaching Help: As you read through these passages, note all various ways Saul acts as a worldly leader; with laziness, poor excuses, fear, stinginess, and even accepts dishonor.

Fall wk 6

Topic: God's Grace to Israel Through Jonathan Despite Saul's Empty Religion

Scripture: 1 Samuel 13:1-14:52

Verse: *"The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." Psalm 145:9*

Principle: God faithfully and sovereignly works to bring about His purposes despite the corruption of the worldly leaders.

Gospel Application: Religious rituals are no substitute for a heart for God, under the kingship of God.

Note: Saul "uses" several religious rituals to try to gain favor and victory; sacrifices, the ark, an altar, even a rash oath to God. Saul is being "religious" in hopes of gaining victory without a heart of obedience and love for God.

Doctrine: Common Grace (Chapter 31, Sections B5, B6, B7, and B8, Pages 661-664)

Fall wk 7

Topic: Saul Rejected and David Anointed

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-16:13

Verse: *"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b*

Principle: God's chosen king David was one who loved and obeyed God, and shared God's heart.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus loved and obeyed God and shared and fulfilled all His Father's plans.

Personal/Leadership Application: Today, God's children love and obey Him, striving to share and fulfill our Father's plans (John 14:15-30).

Doctrine: Trinity (Chapter 14, Section D1, Pages 248-249).

Fall wk 8

Topic: God's Servant David Defeats Satan's Servant Goliath

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:14-17:58

Verse: *"[Our God is a God who saves]; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death. Surely God will crush the heads of His enemies, the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins." Psalm 68:20-21*

Principle: God's chosen king David defeated the enemy and removes the threat of slavery and death.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus defeated Satan at the cross and removed His peoples' slavery to sin and fear of death.

Personal/Leadership Application: Today, God's children cannot save others, only Christ can do that.

Doctrine: Atonement (Chapter 27, Section C3, Page 579); Santification (Chapter 38, Section B1, Pages 747-748); Satan and Demons (Chapter 20, Section D7, Page 433).

Note: Many teachings today compare believers with David, making a logical application that "we can defeat the Goliaths in our life." This however is an entirely wrong approach to this lesson. We should instead identify with Israel in this story, not David. Like Jesus who miraculously saves us from undefeatable Satan and sin, so David miraculously rescued Israel from Goliath. The undefeatable giant dressed in scaled (snake-like) armor and was mortally wounded on the head as God promised the serpent in the garden (Gen 3:15).

Fall wk 9

Topic: God's Protection of David

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-20:42, Psalm 59, 34

Verse: *"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them." Psalm 34:7*

Principle: God preserved His chosen king from the worldly king so that He could fulfill the plans God had for him and bring peace and a righteous reign to his kingdom.

Gospel Application: God preserved His perfect King Jesus from worldly kings and authorities (including Satan) so He could bring about His purpose of salvation and a righteous reign over the kingdom of heaven.

Personal/Leadership Application: Today, God preserves His children to bring about His purposes and kingdom (Philippians 1:6).

Doctrine: Providence (Chapter 16, Section D, Pages 332-333).

Fall wk 10

Topic: David's Temptations

Scripture: 1 Samuel 21:1-24:22, 26:1-28:2, 29:1-30:34; 1 Chronicles 12:1-22, Psalms 142, 52, 63, 54, 57

Verse: *"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. [Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.]" Psalm 27:13-14*

Principle: God's chosen king David trusted God's timing instead of falling to worldly temptations.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus trusted God's timing instead of falling to the temptations of Satan.

Personal/Leadership Application: Today, God's children also trust in God's timing and strive to not make things happen when they think they should (Galatians 6:8-9).

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 13, Section D, Pages 211-212); Providence (Chapter 16, Section D, Pages 332-333); Satan and Demons (Chapter 20, Section C2, Page 415).

NOTE: There is a great deal of reading for this lesson. It is not necessary or possible to cover all the material, but important to see the depth of David's suffering in the wilderness and the temptations he faced to seize the kingdom he had been given before God's timing in giving it to him. It is worth noting that it was probably about twenty years from the time David was anointed king until the time he reigned as king over all Israel.

Fall wk 11

Topic: God Restrains and Reassures David Through Abigail

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25:1-44

Verse: *"[I will be careful to lead a blameless life]— when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart." Psalm 101:2*

Principle: God kept His chosen king David from sin and reassured Him of God's promise of his future kingly reign.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus was completely sinless and secure in God's plan for His future kingly reign.

Personal/Leadership Application: God helps protect His children today from sin and the attacks of our enemy (1 Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:10-18).

Doctrine: God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 12, Section B5, Pages 195-197); Providence (Chapter 16, Section B6, Pages 320-322); Person of Christ (Chapter 26, Section 3, Pages 535-537).

Note: It was customary for visitors to be offered hospitality, especially on a feast day. Moreover, David had been extending protection to Nabal's herds as a good neighbor. As a result, David and his men should have been treated much better, even given gifts. Nabal's rejection was a great insult to David, and a great temptation to retaliate in a worldly manner.

Fall wk 12

Topic: King Saul's Final Rejection of God

Scripture: 1 Samuel 28:3-28:25, see also Deuteronomy 18:9-22

Verse: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7 ESV*

Principle: God forbids His children to look for wisdom anywhere apart from Him.

Gospel Application: Our Bibles contain all God intends for us to know about salvation and life in Him. (2Tim 3:16)

Doctrine: Sufficiency of Scripture (Chapter 8, Sections A-D, Pages 127-135).

Note: Instead of repenting (of disobedience and disregard of God's rules and ways) and waiting on God, Saul did what worldly leaders do, he searched for answers elsewhere, in forbidden places. Saul banned the spiritists and mediums, revealing that he knew he should not seek answers there.

Fall wk 13

Topic: David's Songs That Reveal His Heart for God

Scripture: Psalms 18, 19, 20, 110, 139

Verse: *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." Psalm 20:7*

Principle: God's chosen king David loved and trusted God and looked forward to God's perfect King Jesus to come.

Gospel Application: People who love and trust God and believe that God's perfect King Jesus saved them will spend eternity with their King.

Personal/Leadership Application: Today, God's children look forward to God's perfect reign in heaven in order to remain strong in today's battle (1Pet 1:3-6)

Doctrine: Faith (Chapter 35, Section A, Pages 709-713).

NOTE: Well over half the Psalms are directly attributable to David. We are using many in this study and you are welcome to add any others to build a story telling what David believed to be true about God, his King.

Fall wk 14

Topic: The Judgment of the Worldly King

Scripture: 1 Samuel 31:1-13; 2 Samuel 1:1-2:27; 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

Verse: *"The wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous." Psalm 1:5*

Principle: Those who reject God's kingship over their lives will face eternity without Him.

Gospel Application: There is a day of judgment for each person. Those who are under Christ's kingship will be with Him forever. Those who reject Him in life, will be rejected in their death.

Doctrine: Final Judgment and Eternal Punishment (Chapter 56, Sections C1, C2, D, E, and G, Pages 1142-1143, 1146-1147, 1149-1153).

Fall wk 15

Topic: David Reigns as King Over an Incomplete Kingdom

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:1-4:12

Verse: *"[Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.] He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun." Psalm 37:5-6*

Principle: God's chosen King David reigned over part of Israel, but God promised that one day, all his enemies would be defeated and He would reign over all Israel.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus reigns in the hearts of those who love and believe in Him, but one day, all His enemies will be put under His feet and He will reign as King over all creation.

Doctrine: Nature and Purpose of the Church (Chapter 44, Section A6, Pages 863-864).

Fall wk 16

Topic: David Reigns as King Over All Israel in the Royal City

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-25; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9, 14:1-17; Psalm 21

Verse: *"The king rejoices in your strength Lord, how great is His joy in the victories you give? [You have granted him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.] You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head." Psalm 21:1-3*

Principle: God's chosen king David ruled over the entire kingdom of Israel from the royal city of Jerusalem.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus will one day reign beside His Father over His kingdom of the new heavens and the new earth from the new Jerusalem.

Personal/Leadership Application: God promises that His children will one day rule under Christ in the heavens and earth (Luke 19:17, Rev 20:6).

Doctrine: The New Heavens and the New Earth (Chapter 57, Section C, Pages 1163-1164).

Fall wk 17

Topic: The Importance of Proper Worship of the King

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-23; 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:43

Verse: *"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. [Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness, tremble before Him all the earth.]" Psalm 96: 7-8*

Principle: Worship of God must be in response to what He has revealed in His Word, the holiness of who He is, and the faithfulness of what He has done.

Gospel Application: When God's perfect King Jesus finally rules over His entire kingdom, all people and things will be holy and all people will be able to worship perfectly.

Doctrine: Authority of Scripture (Chapter 4, Section B and D, Pages 81-82, and 84-85); God's Communicable Attributes (Chapter 12, Section C9, Pages 202-203); Worship (Chapter 51, Section D, Pages 1010-1013).

Fall wk 18

Topic: King David's Just and Merciful Reign

Scripture: 2 Samuel 8:1-9:13, 1 Chronicles 18:1-17 see also 1 Samuel 20:12-17 and 2 Samuel 4:4

Verse: *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne, love and faithfulness go before you." Psalm 89:14*

Principle: God's chosen king David is faithful to his covenant and rules in mercy and justice.

Gospel Application: God's perfect King Jesus fulfills God's covenant exactly and is a just and righteous judge.

Personal/Leadership Application: God's children must remain faithful to God's covenant and rules, and lead in mercy and justice. (James 2:27)

Doctrine: Covenants (Chapter 25, Section C1, Pages 519-520; Final Judgment and Eternal Punishment (Chapter 56, Sections C1 and E, Pages 1142-1143, 1147).

Fall wk 19 (Sunday before Christmas)

Topic: God's Promise to the King

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-29; 1 Chronicles 17:1-27; Psalm 132

Verse: *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me, your throne will be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16*

Principle: God promised His chosen king David that someone from his family would reign over His people forever.

Gospel Application: There would be many kings from David's family after he died, but only Jesus Christ would be able to reign God's kingdom perfectly forever.

Doctrine: Offices of Christ (Chapter 29, Section C, Pages 628-629).

Fall wk 20 (Christmas Sunday)

Topic: God's Promise Fulfilled in the Birth of His Son Jesus Christ

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-2:12, Luke 1:31-33

Verse: *"[For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.] And He will be called Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." Isaiah 9:6-7*

Principle: Jesus Christ is the King God promised from king David's family who would one day save God's people from their sin and rule them with justice and righteousness forever.

Gospel Application: God's promises to His people are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Doctrine: Communicable Attributes of God (Chapter 12, Section B5, Pages 195-197); Covenant (Chapter 25, Section C, Pages 519-522).

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Sample Story for Lesson One

Topic: INTRO

Scripture: Genesis through Ruth especially emphasizing Genesis 1-3, Exodus 19:4-6, Judges 21:25

Verse: *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1*

Principle: God is the good King of His creation, but peoples' sin separates them from Him.

Gospel Application: God promised to solve the problem of sin by sending a perfect King, His Son, Jesus Christ to save people from their sin and perfectly reign over them.

Doctrine: Communicable Attributes of God (Chapter 13, Section D16, Pages 216-218); Providence (Chapter 16, Section C, Pages 331-332); Sin (Chapter 24, Sections A-C, Pages 490-498)

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The very first words of the Bible say "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". God made the earth out nothing at all, and filled it with interesting and wonderful things – plants, animals, mountains, seas, and His very most prized creation – people. God said His creation was very good. But His work was far from done. His creation needed Him to care for and rule over it. And that is exactly what He did.

From the beginning, God established His love of and care for His creation. The Bible tells us in Psalm 24:1 that **"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."** This means that everything He has made, belongs to Him to protect and care for. **God is the good King of His creation.** He placed Adam and Eve as caretakers, but He provided everything they needed – everything for them to eat and drink, and even directions to help them live in a way that would please Him. And God gave Adam and Eve one rule to follow. He told them that they could eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden except for one. For a little while, everything in the garden was perfect. Adam and Eve lived under the care of their good God and they enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Him as their King. They were even able to walk with Him and talk with Him.

But you know what happened . . . Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Disobeying God is called sin. **God is the good King of His creation, but peoples' sin separates them from Him.** Adam and Eve's sin not only caused them to be separated from God, but every person born on this earth after them would also be born, separated from their King because of sin. That means that when you and I were born, we did not know God, we did not understand his goodness and kindness, and we did not want Him to be our King.

But from the very time Adam and Eve sinned against God, He began promising that one day, a Savior would be born who would solve the terrible problem of sin in our lives, and fix our broken hearts. He would do this so perfectly, that one day, we would live again, able to walk and talk with God, and to gladly obey our good King.

The book of Genesis in the Bible tells us all about how God filled the earth with people, choosing a specific man named Abraham, and calling him away from his former life of sin into a new life of following, honoring, obeying and worshiping God. From Abraham, God grew a family of people called Israel. As God worked in this family, He showed them Himself – because remember that people are not born knowing God. He showed them His kindness, His provision, His power and strength – and He showed them His holiness, His wisdom, His justice, righteousness, and His love. But He also made promises to them – and demonstrated to them over and over that He was faithful to His Word. One of His most precious promises was that one day, He would once and for all deal with this terrible problem that sin caused in the lives of His most precious creation – people.

At the end of Genesis, God had tucked the family of Israel safely away in Egypt to have plenty to eat, and to grow into a nation. And they did grow and multiply. Soon there were so many in the nation of Israel that the Pharaoh of Egypt was afraid of them. Instead of being honored guests, they were treated like slaves and persecuted. But God, at just the right time, moved through Moses, and brought the nation of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt. He defeated their enemies, led them through the desert and provided everything they needed – and He gave them rules to follow to help them worship and honor Him properly, and to help them live in harmony with each other. God told Moses to tell the people of Israel in Exodus that **Although the whole earth was (His), (they) will be for (Him) a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** God was setting the nation of Israel apart to be a special kingdom, headed by their good King, God – where they would love and honor and worship Him. But. . . it didn't work out that way. Sin continued to be a terrible problem. When God told Israel that it was time to trust Him and enter the land He had prepared for them, they did not believe that

He would continue to provide for them, and they disobeyed Him. **God is the good King of His creation, but peoples' sin separates them from Him.**

So – for forty years, the nation of Israel wandered through the desert, until all of those who were unwilling to follow and obey their King died. Then – at just the right time, God again announced that it was time to enter the good land that He had prepared for them.

The book of Joshua tells the story of how God, again, defeated all of their enemies, provided everything they needed, and guided them into the wonderful Promised Land that He had chosen and prepared specifically for them, and gave them His laws to help them love and honor Him and each other. But it did not take long before sin once again grew up in these peoples' hearts. That sin turned their hearts away from God. The book of Judges tells us several times that **in those days Israel had no king, and everyone did as they saw fit.** What? Israel had no king? What does this mean? Had God left Israel? Of course God did not abandon Israel. He was still their good King – caring for them, and working in their lives. But Israel had abandoned God – peoples' sin separates them from God. They had no king, because they were not trusting, following, and obeying God. And it was a very dark and sad time for Israel.

But even in the darkest of times, when it seemed that the people were the farthest away from God, Their good King never left them, and continued to remind them that He had a good plan, and that the day was coming when He would once and for all deal with their sin and we see hints of that Savior who would come. We see hints in Moses and Joshua as prophets, warriors and leaders, and in Boaz in the book of Ruth who redeemed – or bought - Ruth for Himself. And even in this dark time where Israel had no king and everyone did as they saw fit – God provided another big picture of this Savior He would send and the role He would play in the lives of His people. We know that Savior is Jesus – and it is going to be a long time before it will be time for Him to come and save the people from their sin. But God is going to give His people and us another picture of who Jesus will be to them and to us – our King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **God promised His people that they would be a kingdom with a perfect King from king David's family who would save His people from their sin and rule them with justice and righteousness forever.**

Wait until you see what God is about to do next in His story. It all begins next week with a miracle baby but it might not be the baby you might be thinking of!!

Family Sunday School Learning Schedule

Year/Semester: Year 4, Spring/Summer (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 5, Fall (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 5, Winter (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 5, Spring/summer (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 6, Fall (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 6, Winter (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 6, Spring/summer (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 7, Fall (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 7, Winter (Not Yet Available)

Year/Semester: Year 7, Spring/summer (Not Yet Available)

APPENDIX 1: Games and Activities
(Not Yet Available)